Pro Wrestling Illustrated Presents

ALL-COLOR YEAR-END SPECIAL!

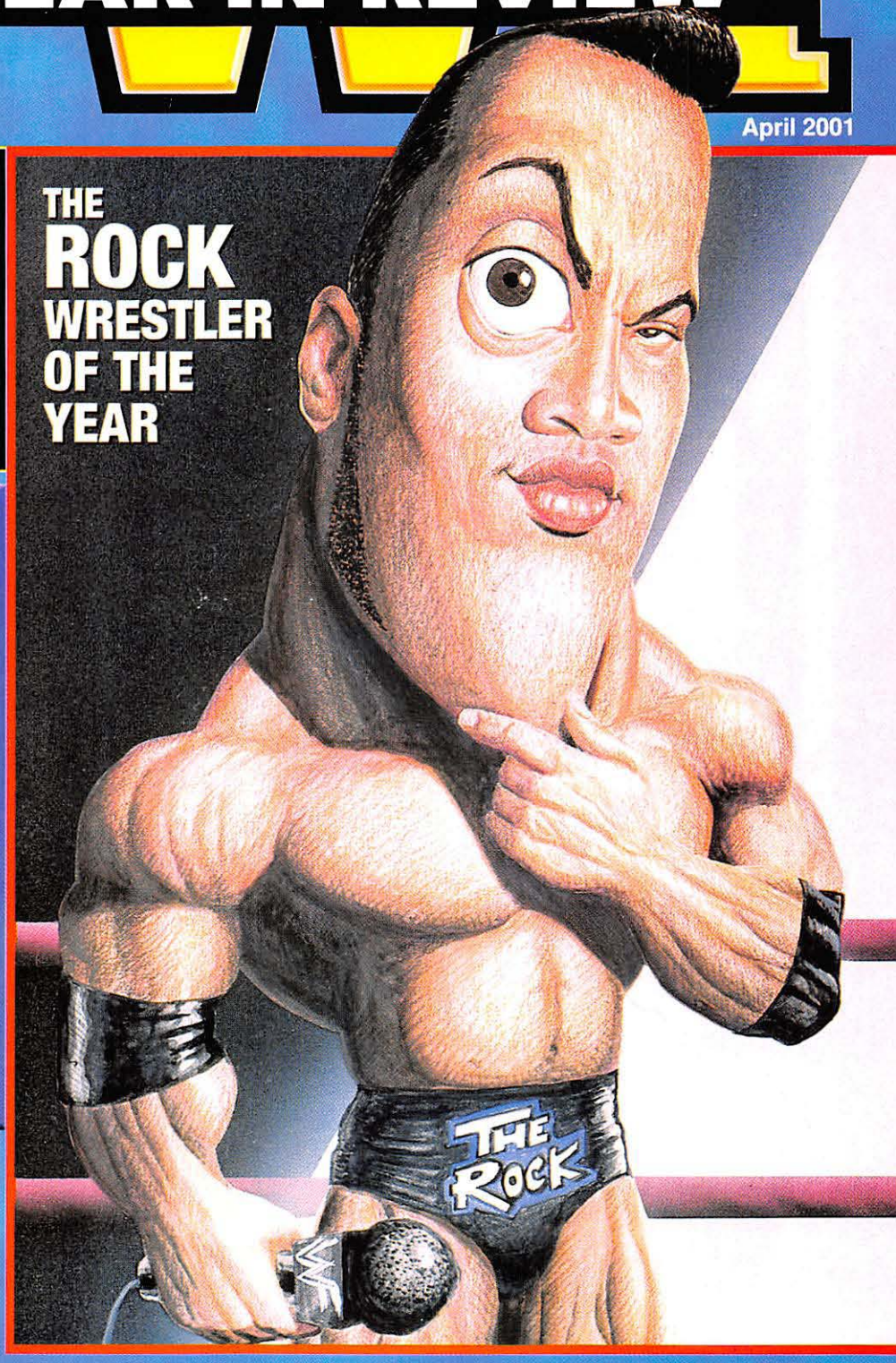
# PWI®

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

April 2001

## ACHIEVEMENT 2000 AWARDS

- 2000 In Review
- Unofficial Official Awards
- Quotes Of The Year
- Superstats
- Supercards 2000
- Predictions For 2001

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Pro Wrestling to be added to Summer Olympics!

Austin vs. Goldberg signed for pay-per-view showdown!

Las Vegas sportsbooks now taking bets on pro wrestling!

None of these headlines appeared on 1wrestling.com.

If you didn't see it on 1wrestling.com, it probably wasn't true.

# FROM THE DESK OF...

HAVING SPENT THE better part of the half-year in meetings with our editorial staff and management team discussing the changes in our product line, it's nice to have a little time to think about this wonderful sport (yes, sport, dammit) of ours. I have stored up a few opinions on a variety of topics. Such as ...

•**The WWF's purchase of WCW:** Part of me wanted to see it happen. It would have been fun to see Vince McMahon waving his magic wand over a company he has spent the last 18 years trying to kill. And it would have been fun to see a WWF vs. WCW Super Bowl every year. Ultimately, though, competition is the fuel that propels capitalism. Wrestling as a sport—and the wrestlers as participants—would have suffered under a McMahon dictatorship.

•**The $18-million Owen Hart settlement.** I don't know Martha Hart personally, but I feel like I do. I've spoken to her three times in my life and only by phone. Once briefly when we did the Owen Hart True Life Story back in 1998. And then twice more at this time last year when I asked her to pose holding the *PWI* Editors' Award we had posthumously bestowed upon her late husband. I could tell Martha was torn over the idea. She told me that the Rookie of the Year plaque we had given Owen in 1987 was proudly displayed in their home and that it meant a great deal to him. But still, she had such an intense hatred for the business that she felt robbed her and her kids of Owen, she'd have to let me know. A few days later she told me she would have to decline. It was, for her, the right choice. I wish her peace.

•**Mark Jindrak & Sean O'Haire.** I'm 6'4" and I can tell you that it is more difficult to make your body perform with athletic grace when you have arms and legs hanging all over the place. These guys are truly special.

•**Wrestling's decline in popularity.** I'm not going to repeat what Dave Rosenbaum wrote in "Steel Cage" and Harry Burkett reported on "The Business Page," but consider this: The least-watched wrestling program for the month covered was *WWF Superstars,* with a 0.9 Nielsen rating. Remember that number and read this passage from the May edition of our sister publication *Boxing 2001: Friday Night Fights* has been so successful for ESPN2 that the network's boxing coverage is going to be expanded to Tuesday nights for 13 weeks." So successful, indeed. *FNF's* average rating was 0.9.

•**Women in wrestling.** Fabulous Moolah is a terrific person and well-deserving of her membership in the *PWI* Editors' Award Club. Only thing is, her matches did nothing for me. Her record states emphatically that she was the most successful wrestler of any gender in the history of the sport. But she was anything but a gifted athlete. Lita, Chyna, Molly Holly, Ivory: Where have you been all my life?

•**The future of WCW.** Whoever ends up owning World Championship Wrestling, they should carefully study the blueprint that Vince McMahon wrote in bringing the WWF back from the brink of disaster just a few short years ago: Keep your costs in check and use all available promotional tools to re-educate the public on just who it is they should care about. Of course, it's a heck of a lot more complicated than just that, but wasn't the outcome of the war between the WWF and WCW really just a simple game of attrition? The strategy of the Turner folks was to keep shelling out big bucks until there was nothing left for Vince and company. (They knew they were overspending for Bret Hart in 1997, but they felt that his departure from the WWF would leave the company much closer to death.) The strategy for the WWF was to cuts its payroll (Bret) and wait for WCW to self-destruct under the force of their out-of-control expenses and, as important, their out-of-control egos. There is much to be learned by the results of what happened over the next three years, and whoever winds up owning WCW would be wise to take heed.

Happy New Year!

**Stu Saks**
**Publisher**


PWI THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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# PWI®

APRIL 2001

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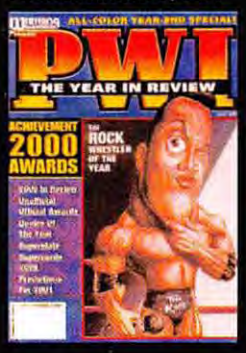


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**COVER DESIGN:**
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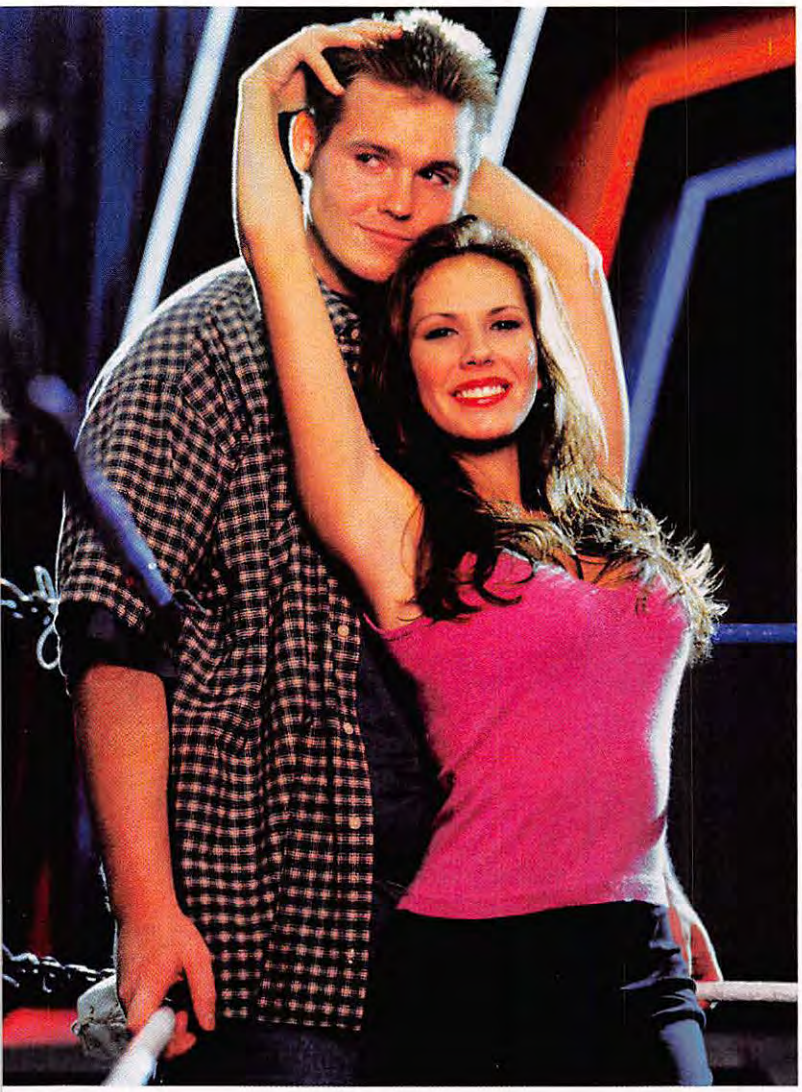
# before the bell

Compiled by Will Welsh

## SO YOU WANT TO BE A PRO WRESTLER ...

Let's face it, most us of don't have $1,056.20 a year to throw away on wrestling pay-per-views (that's $32.95 each for 11 regular WWF PPVs, $34.95 for WrestleMania, $32.95 each for 12 WCW PPVs, and $21.95 each for 12 ECW PPVs, which have recently gone monthly). So what's the wrestling fan to do on Sunday night while waiting to call the *PWI* Hotline for the best pay-per-view results around?



Add the Hotline number to your speed dial for one. But once that's accomplished, we recommend heading on over to the WB. That's where you'll find the first-ever wrestling-related sitcom, *Nikki*.

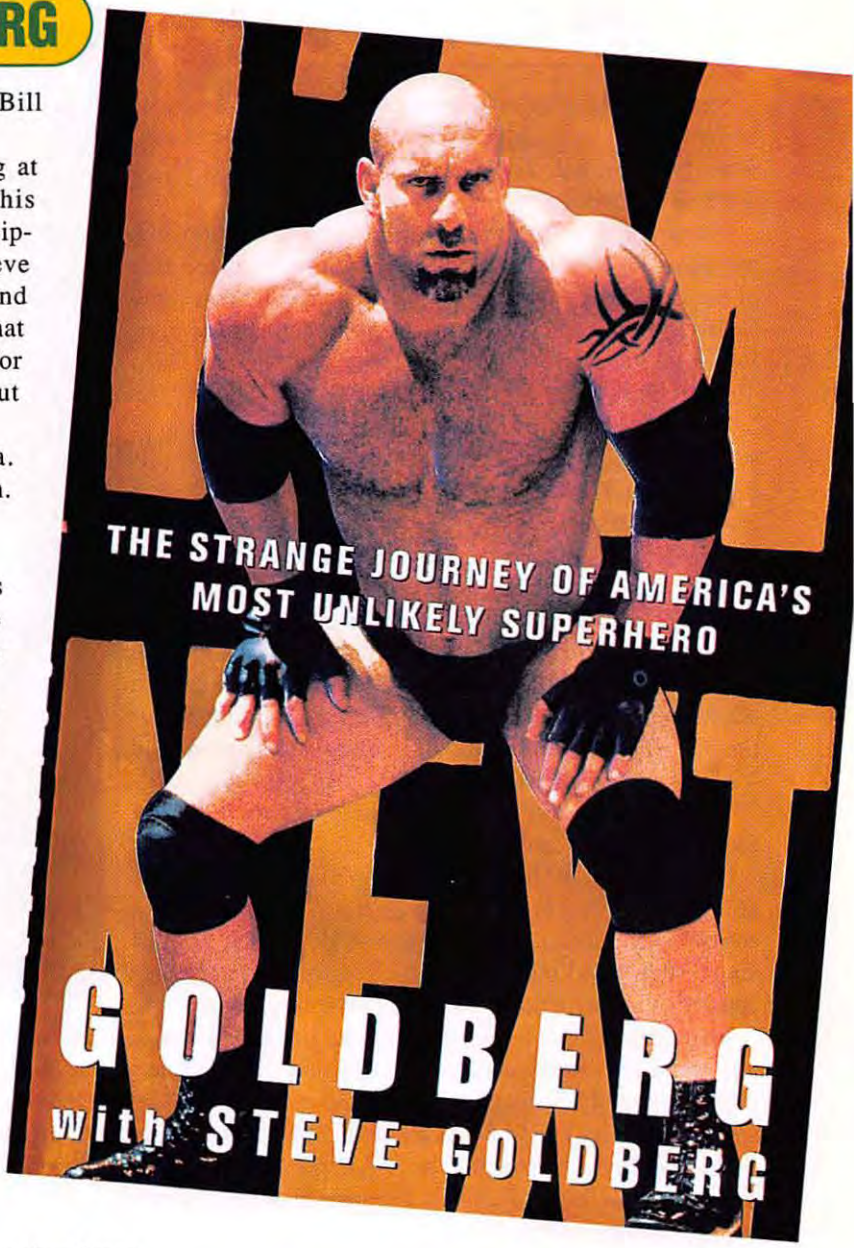
Starring Nikki Cox (remember the oh-so-saucy redhead from *Unhappily Ever After* and *Norm*?) and newcomer Nick von Esmarch, *Nikki* (Sundays, 9:30-10:00 p.m. ET/PT) tries to bring to life the struggles of two young newlyweds as they both attempt to make good on their lifelong dreams. Cox plays Nikki White, who, in her quest to become a professional dancer, moonlights as a showgirl at Las Vegas' Golden Calf Showroom (enough of a reason to watch the show, if you ask us). Von Esmarch plays Nikki's husband, Dwight White (the rapper's delight?), an aspiring professional wrestler just starting out in the independents. So far, the show is getting some good reviews, especially among fans of romantic comedies.

"I think that almost everyone likes to see a romantic comedy, whether they're in a relationship or want to be," Cox told *PWI*. "Everyone likes to see a couple, and that's really the heart of it. We do have these broad careers, but at its root, *Nikki* is just a really sweet romantic comedy."

Of course, it doesn't hurt to have Cox, who knows a little about wrestling since she used to watch GLOW as a little girl (and isn't she just too yummy?), running around in tight-fitting leotards, either.

All in all, we give it three suplexes out of a possible five.

# THE BOOK ON GOLDBERG




The following is an excerpt taken from Bill Goldberg's new autobiography, *I'm Next*:

"A couple of years ago, we were cruising at 39,000 feet. Mike was at the controls of his Citation X, and Steve and I were in the back sipping on a couple of cold beers. 'Dude,' Steve said, 'you're living the American dream, and someone should write a book about it. And that someone should be me.' I thought about it for half a minute, and I grinned, thinking about what a wacky idea it was.

'Why not?' I said. 'That's a great idea. We'll go to Cabo and write it on the beach. And visit our good friend Don Julio."

Tough life.

Actually, Goldberg's life hasn't been as easy as the majority of his squashes, and the tales of his battles through adversity are what make *I'm Next* such an interesting read.

Written with his brother Steve, *I'm Next* is the story of how a young Jewish boy from Oklahoma grew up to become an American cultural icon via professional wrestling. It was a pretty strange trip, and, believe it or not, it has more to do with his injury-riddled body than anything else.

Now, for those wrestling fans who have read the Mick Foley and Dynamite Kid autobiographies, *I'm Next* may seem a bit shallow. Though Goldberg vents about the way his career has been handled and various problems with fellow wrestlers, he does so almost in passing. And there are certainly those out there who expected Goldberg to devote at least an entire chapter to his hatred of Scott Hall. It didn't happen. Instead, Hall is mentioned just a few times, and though Goldberg makes a point to say he can't stand the former Outsider, he doesn't go into great detail about the rift between the two.

Basically, if you're looking for controversy, you're going to have to look elsewhere. Despite that, however, the book should still score with readers because of Goldberg's brutal honestly about himself and his own limitations.

In no way does Goldberg claim to be a great wrestler (duh). In fact, he actually admits to having other wrestlers carry him to good matches (duh again). And he admits to being in the right place at the right time (double duh duh).

But perhaps the most interesting part of *I'm Next* is the section in which he discusses his days as a collegiate football player (he was an all-American at the University of Georgia) and his struggles to overcome injuries and make it in the NFL. It's in these sections that Goldberg seems the most at ease telling his tale—perhaps because those days are over and his past transgressions as a football player can no longer come back to haunt him.

No, *I'm Next* is not *Have A Nice Day*, but it's a worthwhile effort from one of wrestling's most popular and controversial stars.

It, too, earns three suplexes out of five.

# THE STUPID FILES

•Just recently, *Flex* online named its "top five physiques in today's pro wrestling circuit." From top to bottom they were: Scott Steiner, Triple-H, Bill Goldberg, Kevin Nash, and Ken Shamrock.

Kevin Nash? "Big Sexy" possess one of the top five physiques in all of wrestling? He doesn't even possess one of the top five physiques in WCW! Not only do Steiner and Goldberg have Nash beaten, so do Lance Storm, Lex Luger, Booker T, almost every member of The Natural Born Thrillers, and even Evan Karagias!

Now, we know we featured Nash last month in this very section, so let us say that we don't mean to be piling on. If *Flex* had put The Rock in Nash's position, we would have criticized that choice as well. Both men are very well put together, but in an industry in which bodybuilders are commonplace, their physiques, to be honest, are average.

We, of course, are left to wonder how *Flex*, one of the world's preeminent bodybuilding magazines, could have made such a mistake. Maybe it's all relative. Just like we're questioning *Flex* right now, we know there were numerous people who questioned how perennial malcontent Sid Vicious found himself ranked in the top 20 of this year's "*PWI* 500," the most respected ranking of wrestlers to be found anywhere in the world.

You know what? Maybe *Flex* wasn't so off. Maybe it *is* all relative. If we can put Sid in the top 20 of the "500," it can certainly put Nash in the top five. And given the fact that we *did* put Sid in our top 20, who are we to criticize this apparent blunder? It not like we're blunder-free, right?

•It begins on Sunday night and lasts well into Monday afternoon: the weekly creation of signs that wrestling fans make to proudly display on either *Raw* or *Nitro*. In fact, signs have become so much a part of the Monday night war, when *Raw* opens by panning the crowd, nary a soul can be seen; everyone in attendance is underneath the fluorescent hues of colored construction paper.

Most of the time, the signs are harmless. Some are meant to support a particular wrestler, some are meant to poke fun at a particular wrestler, some are meant to poke fun at the jabronies sitting at home, and some are even direct requests to get the viewing audience to call the sign-holder's cell phone (how about 1-800-dial-a-moron?). But they're usually harmless and constructed with no malice intended.

Of course, Robert Catell probably doesn't want to hear that right now. He's being sued for a sum of $10-million by Saks Fifth Avenue employee and former friend Peter Goldschmidt for holding up a sign on the September 25 edition of *Nitro* that read, "P. GOLDSCHMIDT STEALS FROM SAKS."

That's right, a sum of $10-million for holding up a stinkin' sign at a wrestling show.

Now, when everybody here at *PWI* first saw that sign, we were ready to kick some ass. *It's one thing to disparage our good name in some Internet column,* we all thought, *but*

*nobody is gonna steal from our boss and get away with it.*

Thankfully, we learned the next morning that *PWI* Publisher Stu Saks wasn't missing anything and didn't know P. Goldschmidt from a hole in the ground. If Stu had been ripped off, though, things would have gotten pretty darn messy. Between The Murph's underworld connections, Lenker's shootfighting skills, Welsh's Marine Corps training, and Mankiewicz' mouth, we would have hunted Catell down and shamed him mercilessly. Yup, it would have been one ugly scene.

Shocked? Good. Let the above be a lesson to you all. Cross *PWI* and prepare for the worst.

Now, back to the suit.

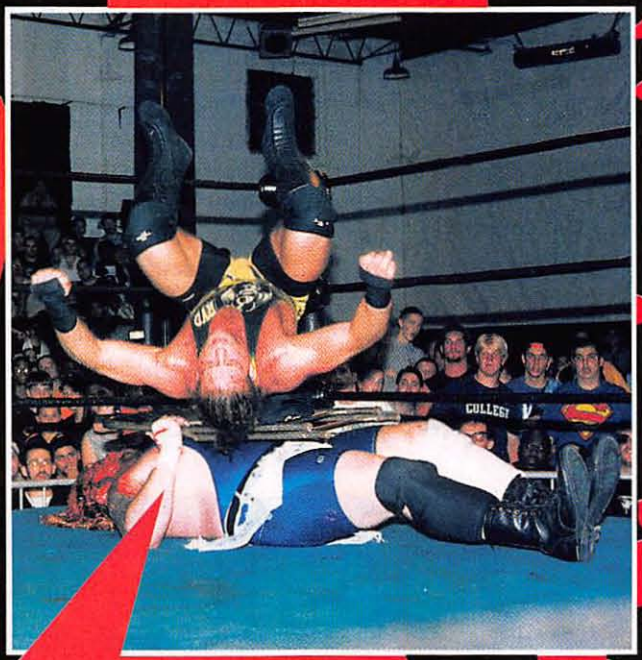
The suit says that Catell held up Goldschmidt to "public contempt and ridicule, disgrace and prejudice."

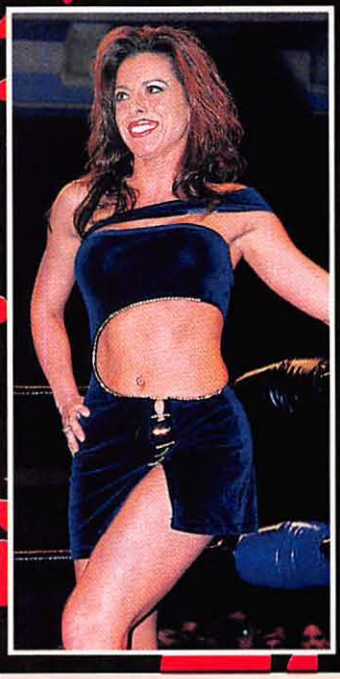
*Oops!* Who knew a sign at a wrestling show could do all that?

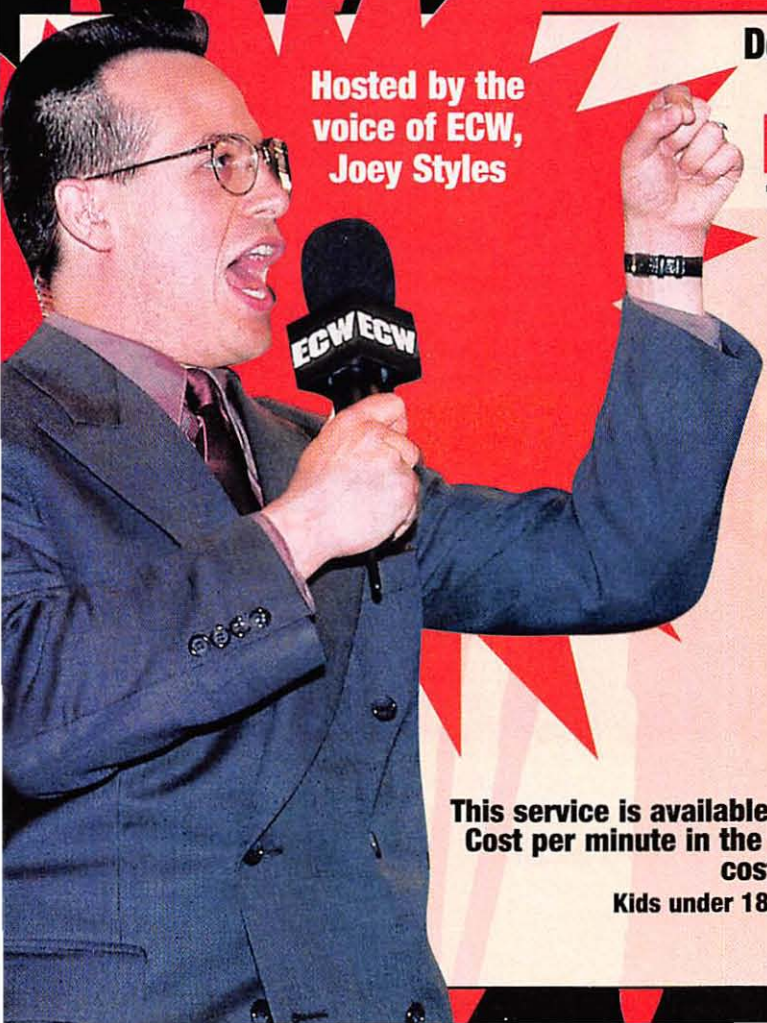
Basically, the moral of this story is the following: Next time you're about to write "Dave Rosenbaum sucks" on a placard in big, bold letters, don't do it. And especially don't do it and then sit right across from the hard camera position on *Nitro* or *Raw* and let the whole nation look at it for two hours straight. He's already getting enough bad press these days.

*(continued on page 10)*

# HARD TO THE CORE!
# THE OFFICIAL ECW HOTLINE!





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## WE HEARD THAT!

"How the hell do I know? I was down there for six months and didn't talk to him five times."

—Terry Funk, asked about his thoughts on Bill Goldberg in an interview on 1wrestling.com

"All these millions and millions of fans—if the environmental group had its way—would type in wwf.com, and instead of seeing everything they've seen for years ... are going to be directed to their site and learn about panda bears and whatever else they're doing to save the world."

—WWFE attorney Jerry McDevitt, discussing the dispute between the WWF and the World Wide Fund for Nature over the usage of the WWF name and its Internet presence in an Associated Press story

"It is indeed an honor to stand before you today, this group of morally corrupt individuals. And since, allegedly, I'm supposed to know a little something about moral corruption and decay ... I feel right at home here in this room today."

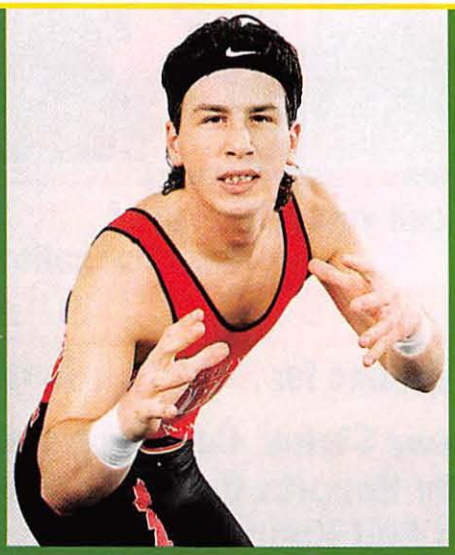
—Vince McMahon, in a speech to members of the Hollywood Radio & Television Society

"It's amazing what kind of devious, sick psychopath this guy really is. I wake up every day in the morning feeling totally fine with who I am as a person, but I can't imagine what it would be like waking up every day and looking in the mirror and being Vince McMahon."

—Bret Hart, on Fox SportsNet's *The Last Word*

"You name it—I'm a biker guy and I hate to shop, but when I do, I know what I want. Being 6'7" and 300 pounds, I've already spent enough time trying to find something that fits."

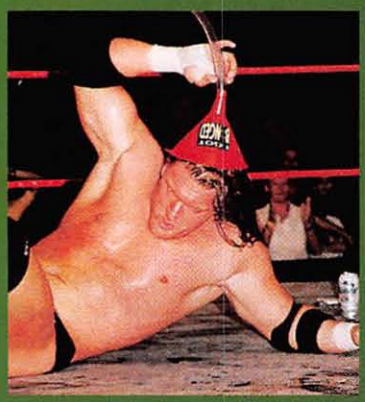
—Big Bossman, discussing his fashion sense in *Playboy*



## caption me!

Think you're a better writer than the editors here at *PWI?* Here's your chance to prove it, punk! This five-year-old picture of Steve Corino, ECW's current World heavyweight—yes, we did say "heavyweight"—champion, needs a short, concise, and downright uproarious caption. If you think you're up to the task, e-mail your delectable little quips to PWIFocus@aol.com or throw a 33-cent stamp on an envelope and drive the postal workers of America even closer to the brink by mailing your suggestions to "Caption Me!" Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Three months from now, we'll share with you the best of the bunch—and the funnier the better.

## JANUARY'S BEST



A little-known fact about Triple-H is that he is a huge fan of actor Jack Haley. When Hunter is a few cans short of a six-pack, he likes to amuse his friends with impersonations of his favorite thespian. After a recent match with The Rock, Triple-H celebrates with a few cans of beer while doing his best impersonation of The Tin Man from *The Wizard Of Oz*. Not shown: X-Pac, Ray Bolger's number-one fan, as The Scarecrow.

—Mike Dolnycky, Philadelphia, PA

Funnel? Funnel?! "The Game" don't need no stinking funnel!

—Jonathan L. Keeter, Forest City, NC

"Honest, occifer, I'm not under the alcofluence of icohol like some thinkle peep I am!"

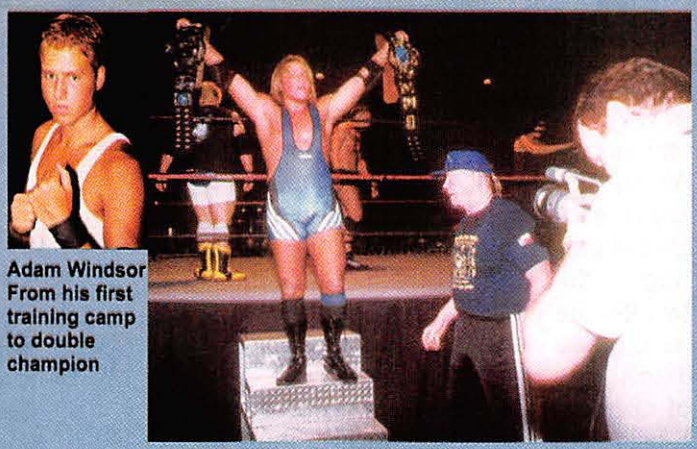
—Chriss C. Hill, Belle Vernon, PA

Dory Funk Jr And The Funking Conservatory Present

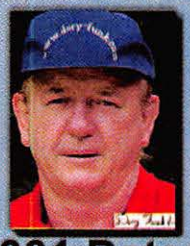
# Fight Camp 2001

## The Week That Could Change Your Life.... FOREVER!!

Flying Fred Curry III



Adam Windsor From his first training camp to double champion



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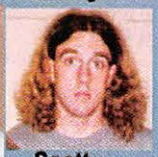
Mar. 19 - 25
Apr. 23 - 29
May 21 - 27
June 18 - 24
July 23 - 29
Aug. 20 - 26

Playboy Dale Williams



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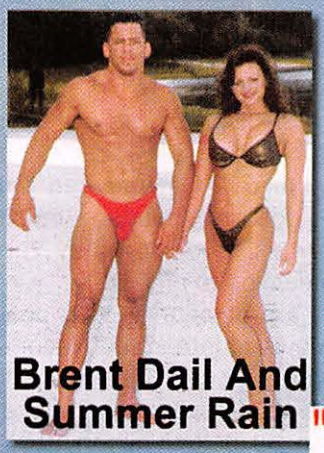

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# RING SIDE

With Will Welsh

LAST MONTH IN this very column, I reported on the potential sale of WCW to the WWF. Well, to the surprise of many people who thought the purchase was a lock to happen, the deal is now dead. Shortly after the March issue went to press, **Linda McMahon** confirmed that the WWF had pulled out of negotiations and was no longer looking to purchase the struggling organization. Later, **Vince McMahon** revealed to the *Pro Wrestling Torch* that Viacom, the home for which the WWF left USA, had in effect killed the deal by demanding an "astronomical" amount of compensation for the WWF breaking its exclusivity agreement.

Why's Vince so angry? Maybe it's because he wanted to purchase WCW, but his new broadcasting partner, Viacom, prevented it from happening.

If not for this demand from Viacom, McMahon said, the deal would have gone through.

So the WWF's out and there are no more suitors left—excluding the always-present **Eric Bischoff**. Where does this leave WCW?

Well, if WCW doesn't end up in the hands of Bischoff, America Online Chairman **Steve Case** will eventually be the man in charge. With AOL reportedly finalizing its merger with Time Warner as this issue went to press, it will be up to Case and his associates to structure WCW's future. Will he disband the company? Trim it down and keep it? Sell it? All three scenarios are feasible. But no one—not even those in WCW's front office—has any real idea what is going to happen next.

Another promotion whose future is hazy is ECW. Ever since losing its spot on TNN, **Paul Heyman's** group has been in disarray. The promotion only ran two shows in between the November to Remember and Massacre on 34th Street pay-per-views and saw its Texas dates scheduled for early-December canceled just before this issue went to press. There were also reports that **Rob Van Dam,** easily ECW's biggest draw, had quit the company. Though both Van Dam and Heyman later disputed that claim, it became obvious that unless things change, RVD isn't long for "Barbed-Wire City."

Sabu is the new NWA heavyweight champion via his defeat of "Colorado Kid" Mike Rapada. Sabu's presence as champion should help bring some prestige back to the title.

Heyman is reportedly still in talks with both USA and FX, but unless the ECW owner can pull another golden horseshoe out of his rear, his revolution may very well be coming to a close.

Now, a promotion getting positive reviews of late is the National Wrestling Alliance. The promotion will probably never fully recover from the hit it took when WCW split from it in the early-1990s, but it has made great strides in trying to present itself as something more than just another independent promotion, especially over the past year. Having **Sabu** as its heavyweight champion is the NWA's latest coup.

Long recognized as one of the sport's most entertaining stars, Sabu strengthened the NWA's

**ECWA fans were happy to see Cheetah Master defeat J.J. The Ring Crew Guy to regain the ECWA heavyweight title. The devious Kevin Kelly, however, marred the postmatch celebration by vowing to take over the ECWA in 2001.**

name recognition by beating **"Colorado Kid" Mike Rapada** for the title at the Fort Homer Hesterly Armory in Tampa, Florida, on November 14. Now, if the promotion handles Sabu's NWA career successfully, his reign should be the most noteworthy since **Dan Severn's** last reign, which ended in March 1999. He won't disappear into the Orient like **Naoya Ogawa** did for most of his two title reigns. He also doesn't have a reputation for being a WCW lackey like Rapada, who spent much of the year prior to his title win appearing on *Nitro* as a member of R & B Security.

"Though many in the NWA don't approve of Sabu's actions over the past couple of months, having him as our heavyweight champion certainly adds some luster to the belt and to our promotion," said NWA board member **Bill Behrens.** "He's a hall of fame-type wrestler, and the majority of us are happy to have him in our organization and as our champion."

The NWA ran into some controversy when a dispute occurred between the organization and **Dory Funk Jr.'s** Funkin' Conservatory. The NWA has severed all ties to the former NWA World champion's training center and stripped the NWA Florida heavyweight title from champion **Adam Windsor**, who is contractually obligated to Funk and the Conservatory.

The East Coast Wrestling Association's "Battle At The Bob" saw **Cheetah Master** defeat ECWA heavyweight champion **J.J. The Ring Crew Guy** to regain the title. Unfortunately for ECWA owner **Jim Kettner,** the title change wasn't the biggest news to stem from the card.

Shortly after Cheetah's victory, as the ECWA locker room emptied out and surrounded the ring in tribute to the new heavyweight champion. The lights dimmed and appearing on stage were the WWF's **Kevin Kelly** and **Michael Cole,** as well as WWF developmental talents **The Haas Brothers** and **Steve Bradley,** and independent star **Inferno.** Earlier in the night, Cole, making his ECWA debut, had helped Charlie and Russ Haas, the ECWA tag team champions, defeat the young but awfully impressive **Briscoe Brothers.** Kelly, in a character that's a far cry from his hermaphrodite WWF image, bragged about how in 2001, he'd ruin Kettner and the ECWA.

"My group, **The Alliance of Defiance,** will help me control the ECWA in 2001," Kelly said when I caught up with him backstage. "Kettner is a rookie in this business, and I'm the professional. The year 2001 is the year I make the ECWA mine."

Kettner's the rookie? Whatever you say, Hermie.

The Haas brothers, by the way, are headed for Memphis Championship Wrestling, one of the WWF's developmental promotions.

**Stan Hansen,** a former AWA World and four-time All-Japan Triple Crown champion, has retired from the sport. All-Japan owner **Motoko Baba** made the

*(Continued on page 98)*

# In focus

By Dave Lenker

## YOUR YEAR-END TOP 10 LISTS

Okay, so I never really came out and asked you to send me Top 10 lists for this year's year-end issue, but you did so anyway. And the lists were just as hilarious as ever. After taking a few hours to weed through every single one of them, I think I've come up with the best of the best. Read on ...

### TOP 10 WRESTLERS THAT THE BIG SHOW SHOULD IMPERSONATE

10—Showdust
9—Al Show
8—"Macho Man" Randy Showvage
7—"Superfly" Jimmy Showka
6—"Polish Power" Ivan Showski
5—Showmala the Ugandan savage
4—The Big Showman
3—Chris Showicho
2—The British Showdog

**... and the number-one wrestler The Big Show should impersonate:**

1—Ricky "The Dragon" Showboat

—Tom Smail, Lake Hiawatha, New Jersey

### TOP 10 REASONS WHY MICK FOLEY WILL COME OUT OF RETIREMENT IN 2001

10—He'll eventually run out of cities in which he can get those cheap pops as WWF commissioner
9—Does the WWF really need him in control when Lt. Commissioner Debra is just as capable of booking the shows?
8—Will realize he still has some spare brain cells he can have killed
7—Plans to have booked every conceivable matchup in the WWF by, say, June
6—Has always regretted that he never had a great series of matches with Tiger Ali Singh
5—Misses falling off cages
4—Stephanie likes world champions more than commissioners

What's next for Show?

3—Dying to find out what it feels like to take an Olympic slam
2—Needs material for *Have A Nice Day II*

**... and the number-one reason why Mick Foley will come out of retirement in 2001:**

1—Six words: Al Snow, "Hell In A Cell"

*—Neil Lennahy, Golden, Colorado*

### TOP 10 REJECTED NAMES FOR ECW PAY-PER-VIEWS

10—Living Rather Safely Actually
9—Bleeding Heavily
8—Mid-Carder Mania
7—Late-February To Remember
6—You Guess The Matches
5—Way Better Than Anything WCW Ever Does
4—Three Hours Of E.Z. Money
3—Corinothon
2—Invasion Of The Indy Guys

**... and the number-one rejected name for an ECW pay-per-view:**

1—Massacre In Paul Heyman's Basement

*—Raymond Wexler, Tempe, Arizona*

### TOP 10 THINGS IN THE WWF THAT *SHOULD* BE CENSORED BY THE RIGHT TO CENSOR

10—The new format for *Sunday Night Heat*
9—That gap between Benoit's teeth
8—Frank Vitucci

7—Those wacky, unpredictable 20-minute talkfests at the start of each edition of *Raw Is War*
6—That damn hermaphrodite Kevin Kelly
5—Mae Young's puppies
4—The Underredneck (I'm with you, Brandi!)
3—Chyna's promos
2—Pat Patterson's underwear

**... and the number-one thing in the WWF that *should* be censored by the Right To Censor:**

1—Any segment featuring Road Dogg

*—Keith Takano, Woodbury, New Jersey*

## TOP 10 REJECTED NAMES FOR WCW PAY-PER-VIEWS

10—The Best Of *Thunder*
9—Battle For A Decent Buy Rate
8—Slumberee
7—The Great American Disaster
6—Intimate Little Get-Together By The Beach
5—Not Censored Nearly Enough
4—Maybe-Not-Quite-SuperBrawl
3—The Russo Show
2—S.O.L.-ed Out

**... and the number-one rejected name for a WCW pay-per-view:**

1—MaddenMania!

*—Hallie Elliott, Stephens City, Virginia*

## TOP 10 THINGS YOU'LL NEVER OVERHEAR AT AN ECW SHOW

10—"Leave? I'd never leave ..."
9—"What exactly does 4:20 mean?"
8—"That Electra, she's so darn sweet!"
7—"I wonder if New Jack could teach me that hold"
6—"When I grow up, I want to be like Hat Guy!"
5—"Japan? Who cares what happens in Japan?"
4—"Hey, Roadkill, would you please shut up!"
3—"Is Corino actually bleeding?"
2—"Could someone please turn those ring lights down!"

**... and the number-one thing you'll never overhear at an ECW show:**

1—"Well, you know, brother ..."

*—Pat Harrison, Tustin, California*

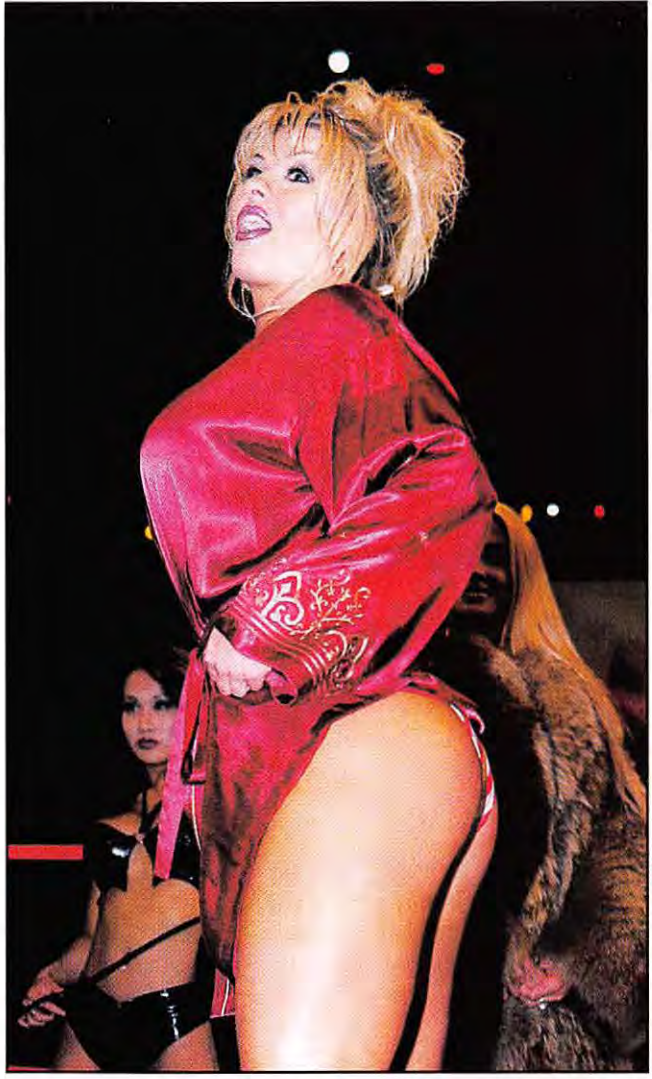
## TOP 10 *REAL* REASONS WHY MAJOR GUNNS JOINED TEAM CANADA

10—Was sick of denying that she's a long-time fan of the CFL's Toronto Argonauts
9—Canada needed a hero to replace that stinkin' sellout Wayne Gretzky
8—She didn't want to, but Vince Russo said she had to
7—Always secretly wanted to say she lived in Saskatchewan
6—Boxing Day!
5—Knows that the guys like seeing her better in cold weather, if you know what I mean
4—Universal health care
3—Canada never had to have a recount when electing a leader
2—That Lance Storm is just so charismatic, dammit!

**... and the number-one *real* reason why Major Gunns joined Team Canada:**

1—Has long had a secret crush on Jim Duggan

*—Scott Page, Louisville, Kentucky*



**Why, Gunns, why?**

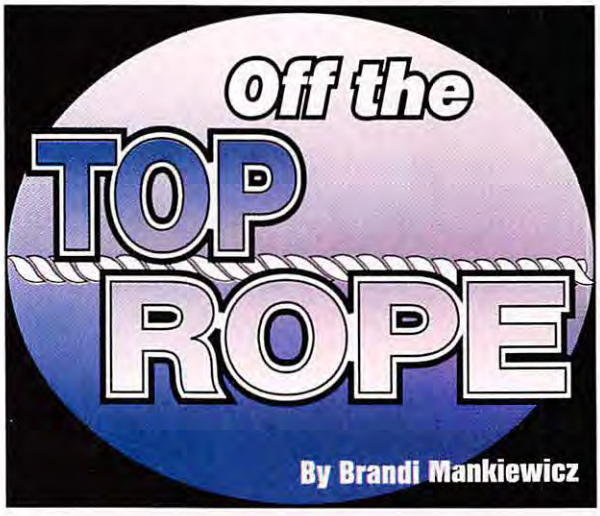
## TOP 10 REJECTED MIKE AWESOME GIMMICKS

10—The Fat Chick Killer
9—Mullet Boy
8—"Below Average" Mike Awesome
7—G.I. Bro
6—Agent Awesome (of the MIA)
5—Homeless Mikey
4—Mr. Ass
3—Mike E. Dangerously
2—That '70s Gal

**... and the number-one rejected Mike Awesome gimmick:**

1—The Gladiator

*—Ted Herman, Tacoma, Washington* □

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**@yahoo.com**

***(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Brandi Mankiewicz herself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)***

*THE VOTES HAVE been tallied, hand counted by my Oompa Loompas. All chads and possible votes noted. All exceptions made clear ... until it came to the final tally. That's when my fellow editors realized that I had won Woman of the Year. Stu Saks then picked that time to tell me and the Oompa Loompas that I was disqualified. But I already had my plaque ordered! All the votes have been counted! How dare he? I bet if Will Welsh won Woman of the Year, he'd have his smiling face gracing page 54. (Well, he did get quite a few votes.)*

*And to think, I was actually going to finally allow a photo of myself to grace the pages of this magazine. The magazine would have been a sure sellout then! Instead, Commandant Saks wants to settle for something less.*

*So if you're peeved because you didn't get to see me with my plaque (and little else), write some good old-fashioned hate mail to my staff. Remember, sending anything other than an offensive letter (or a photograph of yourself) is against the federal laws of this fine country. Written abuse is okay as long as you don't threaten to harm anyone. If you need a lesson in how to cleverly abuse a person, just continue to read this column. I am the champion of abuse ... and your real Woman of the Year.*

Dear Queen Brandi:

I have never written to a wrestling publication before, but I feel you would understand me better than anyone else. What has happened to the WWF? It seems to me that instead of the World Wrestling Federation, it has become the World Whining Federation. First, there's Chris Benoit, arguably one of the finest competitors in the sport today. Now all he does is whine about being screwed out of the WWF heavyweight championship. So what—there are plenty of qualified competitors in the WWF who have not had even a shot at the title. Then there's Kane. Always bitching and moaning about The Undertaker or The Rock. If this was the only reason Kane found his voice, he should go back to being silent. Now there's Raven, the ultimate whiner. Raven is a talented individual and has the capability to shine in the WWF. So, in closing, please allow me to quote Chris Jericho, "Would you please shut the hell up!"

SANDRA HARRIS
PhenomLover@excite.com

**Dear Sandra:**

**I agree with you on most counts, with the only exception being your opinion of Raven. Benoit, Kane, and the rest of the whiners sound like brats who need a good spanking. I understand that Kane has a lot of pent-up anger toward The Underredneck, but instead of straining his voice, he should strain his muscles while beating his brother to a pulp. I'd suggest lighting a fire under Kane's patootie, but I don't think he'd like that. As for Raven, his best quality is whining. I can't understand why people think he's such a genius. If he's a genius at anything, it's snowing the public into believing that his existence really matters.**

Dear Brandi,

Why was Kenta Kobashi rated so high in the *"PWI* 500"? The guy is virtually unknown in this country and I doubt that you people see him wrestle often (and when you do, it's on tape). The fact that he's a Triple Crown winner doesn't impress me since overweight, washed-up American wrestlers like Vader, Stan Hansen, and "Dr. Death" Steve Williams can go to Japan and win it easily. (I'm expecting Mick Foley to win it next!) The article on him even mentions the fact that he has wrestled the same 10 or so wrestlers over the last five years. Until he faces the top wrestlers in this country, I don't think he should be rated so high.

ANDRE WADE
awade@mymailstation.com

**Complain, complain, complain! Is that all Chris Benoit can do? Of course not. I know he's a damn good wrestler. But if he gets screwed out of the WWF title, he should do more than just talk about it.**

**Dear Andre,**

**Just because you are completely ignorant of the differences between American pro wrestling and Japan's *puroresu* doesn't mean that we have to dumb down our list to your standards. We are here to teach and help you explore the world outside of your Section 8 housing. In fact, if it will help you understand why Kobashi was ranked so high, I could send Kobashi to your house and have him chop the hell out of your chest, then give you a lariat. Maybe then you'd understand why he's considered one of the world's toughest men.**

Brandi,

I just started reading *PWI* and I think the most interesting column is yours. However, I do not support what you said about Sting in the December 2000 issue. I think Sting is the greatest grappler to ever step into the squared circle.

CHRIS S
metsfan11@Hotmail.com

**Chris,**

**I'm surprised you even know who Sting is, since you're a new reader. I mean, Sting has been out so much of the last few years, it had to be pretty damn near impossible for you to determine he was a great wrestler. There were, after all, only a handful of Sting matches to showcase his mediocre talents. I'd continue spouting my anti-Sting venom, but Sting is out of action again with an elbow injury. Maybe this time he'll stay away for good. I can only hope, can't I?**

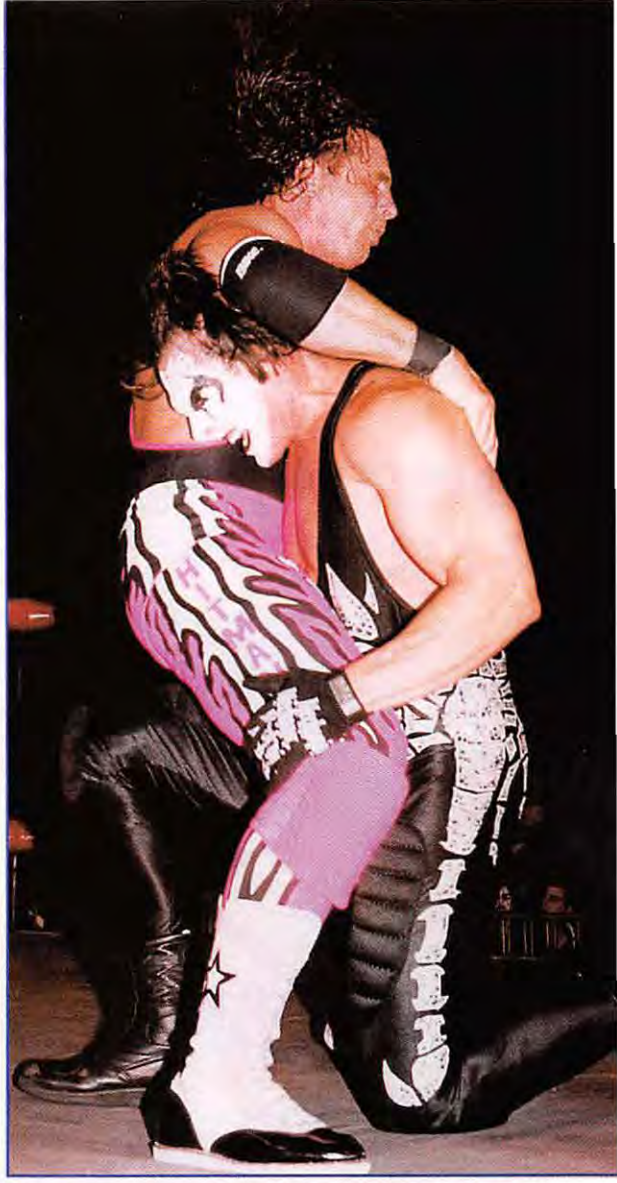
Dear Brandi,

Do you think ECW will rise now that Scott Hall has arrived? If you ask me, ECW can only go forward with this check. And another thing, I think Kid Kash should change his name. If you ask me, it's beyond lame. I'm glad ECW is putting Steve Corino and Jerry Lynn in main events and everything, but what about Rob Van Dam? I think they should invest some money in bringing back Masato Tanaka, Sabu, and Hayabusa. People are just not catching on to Chris Hamrick and others. I hope ECW gets a new TV deal soon, but who knows. What do you think?

JOE SLATEN
joykiller976@yahoo.com

**Dear Joe,**

**I'm not sure what you mean when you say "go forward with this check," but I do think it's funny to see the words "ECW" and "check" in the same sentence without the words "owes me a" or "bounced a" between them. Seriously, though, Scott Hall won't do as much for ECW's reputation as ECW will do for his—if he can stay sober. He's going to use ECW as a proving ground to show that he can obey orders, behave himself, and still wrestle. ECW needs younger, non-chemically enhanced wrestlers like Steve Corino and Chris Hamrick to bolster the federation. They are the future, not RVD, Tanaka, etc. Give them a chance. A solid investment in the future is worth more money than a name wrestler in the present.**



**I haven't seen much of either of these guys on TV lately, though one of them is probably going to come back. Unfortunately, that one is Sting, not Bret Hart.**

Dear Queen Brandi,

Is it true that Bret Hart has been released from his WCW contract? And do you think he will go back to the WWF?

EMMA YATES
yates1@cwctv.net

**Emma,**

**Bret Hart has retired from active competition thanks to his release from WCW, as well as post-concussion syndrome. It's not a fitting ending to his career and I do wish he could have gone out with more grace. As for him possibly returning to the WWF, it hasn't been cold in my part of the underworld, so I guess not.**

***Letter of the month (taken verbatim from the actual letter to share my torture with you all):***

hey brandi everyweek i see your smart ass comments to other people. an u know what imrelly sick an tired of it. instead of answerin the fans question u provide a smart ass remarrk an give no real insight. like my buddy loss_of_life. he just asked to sit on your lap an u publicly bashed him on your magazine. well brandi i hope u go to hell

jason watley ft.riley ks

**Jason:**

**If you learn one thing before you leave this planet, let it be the proper use of a spell check.** □

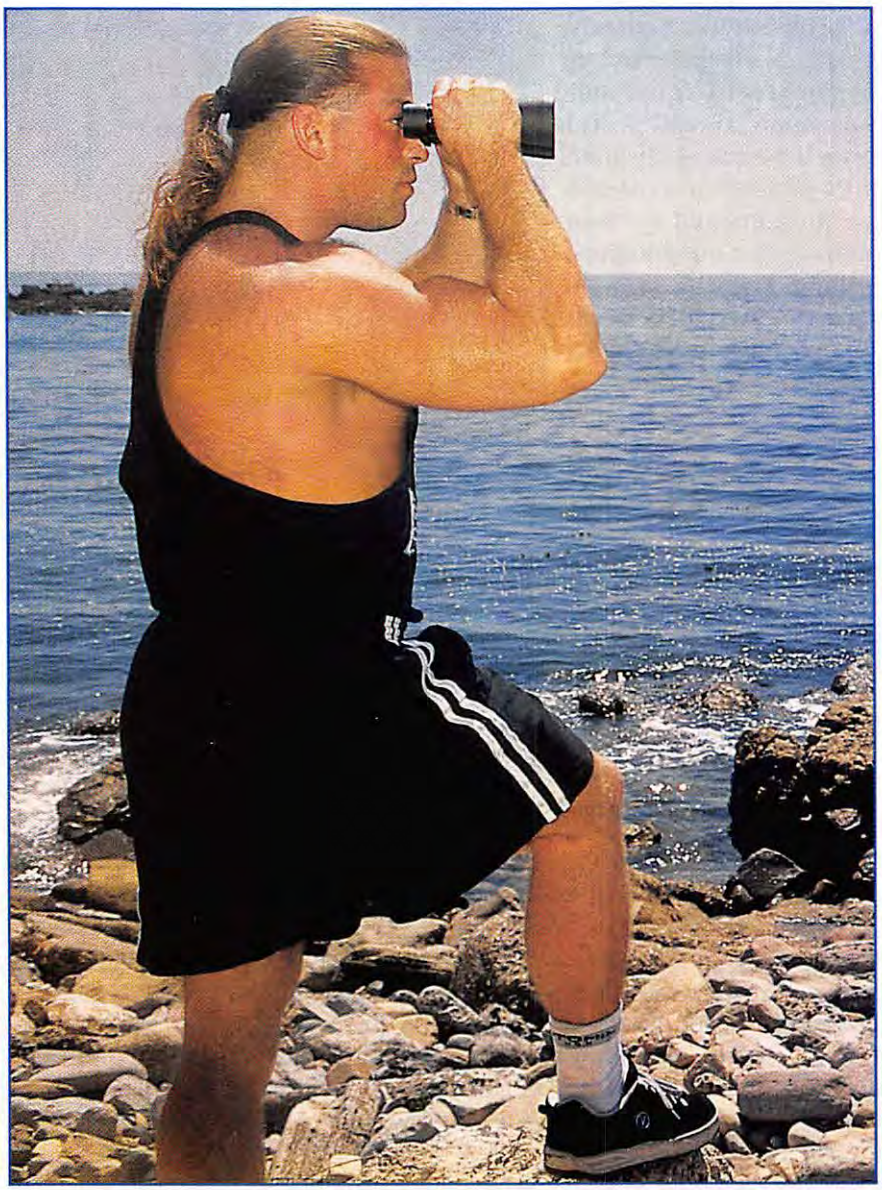
# KREW-CUTS

**By Frank Krewda**

**Please don't go!** "I don't like being wrong," Rush Limbaugh often says. "There's no future in it."

Well, dittos be damned. I hope that everything I'm about to write is 100 percent inaccurate.

Because if my wrestling sensibilities are correct, ECW will have gone the way of the AWA, Smoky Mountain Wrestling, and the USWA by time you read this column. And aside from the professional implications of its demise, the end of ECW would mark the end of a very memorable stage of my writing career. You see, even though every ounce of professionalism in me demands that I be objective, I just can't overlook the fact that covering ECW has been a lot more fun—and a hell of a lot easier—than covering WCW or the WWF. Sure, the throwback intimacy of the ECW Arena and the close-knit aura surrounding ECW creates a unique atmosphere that anyone who experiences it will never forget. But even that means little to a reporter who's trying to dig up a story or get an interview.



**Even though Rob Van Dam and *PWI* haven't always been on the best of terms, RVD (scanning the horizon near his California home) was gracious enough to let us invade his private world for a day last spring. If ECW folds, Frank Krewda is going to miss covering the promotion and its wrestlers.**

What I appreciate the most—and will probably miss the most—is the company's total lack of pretension about itself and the wrestling business.

Of course, without London Publishing, I would have never gained access to the wrestling business at all. But without ECW's cooperation, I would have had a much harder time learning about wrestling's machinations.

For a rookie scribe, the access ECW afforded me was invaluable. But in an ironic way, it spoiled me, too. I guess after talking with Shane Douglas for over three hours prior to a show, I expected all wrestlers to show up early and talk shop with an unknown writer.

And after an hour-long backstage sitdown with Paul Heyman, I suppose I thought that other federation heads would be just as forthright and available. Of course, it didn't take me long to realize that getting interviews with the Vince McMahons of the world was an arduous process that rarely proved fruitful.

But the relationship I enjoy with ECW also prevents me from becoming the promotion's water carrier. In fact, I used this column to rip into Rob Van Dam after he did an interview with *High Times* magazine. Needless to say, I was surprised when Van Dam, who has had a rocky relationship with *PWI*, agreed to an interview/photo shoot from his California home.

With wrestling seemingly cycling down and wrestlers' schedules getting less hectic, maybe access to the Big One And A Half will improve. I can only hope they'll be half as accommodating as ECW has been.

**The killing machine.** Here's something I bet you'd never thought you'd read anytime soon: I have a good reason for WCW to stay in business.

Without a strong showing from *Nitro* in the last 18 months, it seems to me that Vinnie Mac's creative juices aren't flowing the way they once were. Some of the angles we've seen on *Raw Is War* and *Smackdown* are actually beginning to erode the credibility of some of the WWF's top talent.

One of the prime examples of this has been the recent mismanagement of Chris Benoit, whom the federation went to great lengths to promote as the best technical wrestler in the company, if not the world.

After having the WWF's best *wrestler* go toe-to-toe with Triple-H and The Rock, Benoit managed to get outwrestled by a rusty "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin, who was appearing in just his second singles match after recovering from spinal surgery. That was bad enough. What made it worse was that Austin admitted he isn't much of a wrestler in *Raw's* opening promo.

**For months on end, the WWF has billed Chris Benoit as the best technical wrestler in the world, yet he lost a technical wrestling match clean to Steve Austin. Very strange.**

Prior to that, the WWF killed any momentum Benoit had gathered by linking him back to The Radicals.

Then there's Tazz. Tazz came into the WWF as a suplex-throwing monster with ice water running though his veins. But since then, he's become the WWF's best running joke.

First, one of the greatest ECW World champions ever had a miserable time breaking his way out of the hardcore division. Then, Jerry Lawler, the 51-year-old part-time wrestler, exposed him has a cowardly bully. Finally, he received a gig co-hosting *Sunday Night Heat* as Michael Cole's goofy sidekick. Somehow, the company has made one of the most aggressive and intimidating wrestlers alive into a comedy figure.

If Tazz is enjoying the exposure, more power to him, but that well-earned reputation as a no-nonsense crippler may never be repaired.

Still, that's nothing compared to the treatment Eddie Guerrero's received. After a great run as Chyna's love interest and Intercontinental champion, Eddie's had the Latino heat kicked out of him, first by Chyna (a woman), then by Billy Gunn (coming off an injury), and then by Austin, who's managed to squash Eddie a handful of times with basically just one kick and a stunner.

But the biggest victim of bad logic has been Kurt Angle. Forget the fact that despite being the WWF champ, Angle gets in about 30 seconds of offense in his title defenses. Forget that he's portrayed as the biggest wimp in professional wrestling. Forget the fact that Crash Holly—who is half the size of Angle and portrayed as nothing more than a tough little sidekick—almost beat Angle for the World title.

Some world champion.

Hey, TNT, instead of broadcasting live on Monday nights, how about replaying some shows from, say, 1996-'97. Vince needs something to get serious about. □

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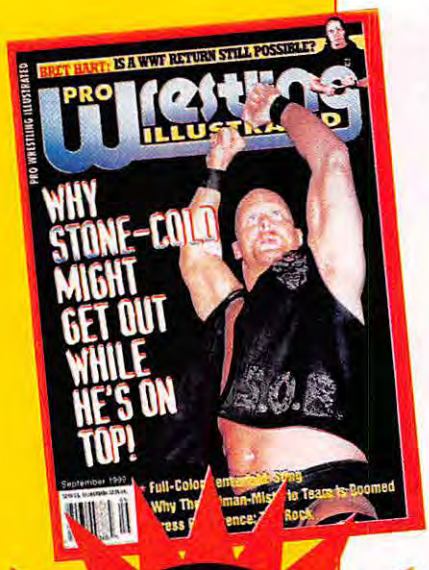


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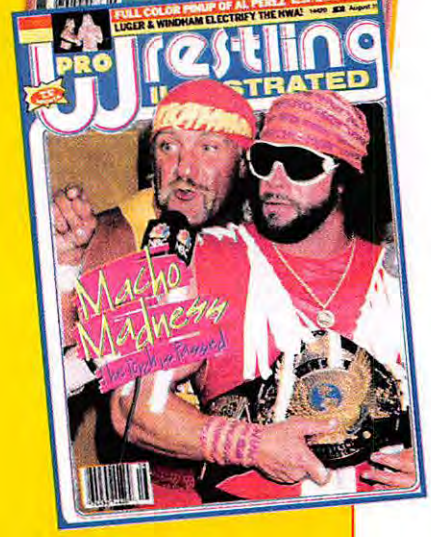


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**February 1985: AWA World Champion Rick Martel: Five Steps To Greatness.** Centerfold: Magnum T.A. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Blanchard-Rhodes, Bob Backlund, Paul Ellering.
**April 1985: Jimmy Snuka: "I Want Piper!"—Even If It Kills The Tonga Kid.** Centerfold: Ronnie Garvin. Plus: Flair-Rhodes, Terry Gordy, Jim Garvin, Road Warriors.
**June 1985: Super Dream Contest: Play Dusty Rhodes' Trivia Game And Win His Boots!** Centerfold: Barry Windham. Plus: Flair-Kerry, Fabulous Ones-Road Warriors, Hogan-Volkoff, Magnum T.A.
**November 1987: When The Going Gets Tough ... Will Nikita Koloff Turn Bad Again?** Centerfold: George Steele. Plus: Road Warriors, Hulk Hogan, Jimmy Hart, Barry Windham.
**June 1988: Is The End Near For Hulk Hogan?** Centerfold: Tully Blanchard. Plus: Midnight Rockers-Kelly & Kiniski, Al Perez, Dusty Rhodes, Magnificent Muraco.
**August 1988: Macho Madness—The Torch Is Passed.** Centerfold: Al Perez. Plus: Kerry Von Erich, Bruno Sammartino, Luger & Windham, Eddie Gilbert.
**November 1988: He's Back! But Is Savage's Belt Beyond Hulk's Reach?** Centerfold: Midnight Express. Plus: Madusa-Hyatt, Rock 'n' Rolls, Dusty Rhodes, Warlord & Barbarian-Ax & Smash, Kevin Von Erich & Jessica McClure.
**November 1989: Dusty Rhodes—Alone And In Danger.** Centerfold: Ric Flair. Plus: Luger-Steamboat, Ultimate Warrior, Robert Fuller, Rick Steiner.
**January 1990: Warrior's Next Victim: Hulk Hogan?** Centerfold: Sid Vicious. Plus: Kerry Von Erich, Jim Ross, Midnight Express.
**February 1990: Luger's Holiday Gift For Flair: Has The "Total Package" Wrapped Up The NWA Title?** Centerfold: Bret Hart. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Woman, Hennig-Beefcake, Toni Adams.
**May 1990: Hulk Hogan: Primed And Ready For WrestleMania VI.** Centerfold: Great Muta. Plus: Piper-Rude, Eric Embry, Rock 'n' Rolls, Sid Vicious, pain.
**June 1990: Hogan vs. Warrior: Why WrestleMania VI Won't Settle This Feud.** Centerfold: Sting. Plus: Nikita Koloff, Cornette-Rock 'n' Rolls, Rhodes-Savage, Anderson-Sawyer, boxers vs. wrestlers.
**July 1990: The Maturing Of Lex Luger: The "Total Package" Becomes The People's Choice.** Centerfold: Rick Martel. Plus: Skyscrapers, Bobby Heenan, Mr. Saito, referees.
**September 1990: The Hulkster's Wrath: 7,000 Miles To Violent Redemption.** Centerfold: The Steiners. Plus: Jeff Jarrett, Sting, Destruction Crew, Four Horsemen, Curt Hennig.
**October 1990: Sting's Painful Lesson: You'll Have No Friends At The Top.** Centerfold: Brutus Beefcake. Plus: Orndorff-Blanchard, Tugboat, Teddy Long, Ultimate Warrior, Road Warriors.
**November 1990: Sting Wins The NWA World Title! "If This Is A Dream, Don't Wake Me."** Centerfold: Road Warriors. Plus: Rude-Warrior, Ric Flair, Funk-Hansen, muscle and power.
**February 1991: WrestleMania VII Contest.** Centerfold: 1991 calendar. Plus: Sid Vicious, DiBiase-Rhodes, Scott Steiner, Power & Glory, Terry Funk.
**March 1991 (Special Issue): 1990—The Year In Wrestling.** 1990 In Review, Achievement '90 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 1991.
**April 1991: Sgt. Slaughter Guilty Of Treason!** Centerfold: Tom Zenk. Plus: Sting, Magnum T.A., Jesse Ventura, Lawler-Gilbert, Hogan & Warrior.
**June 1991: Hulk Hogan: America's Hero.** Centerfold: Hacksaw Duggan. Plus: Cactus Jack, Ric Flair, Nasty Boys, Steiners, Simmons-Reed.
**July 1991: The War Is Over! Hulk Hogan Liberates The WWF Belt From Sgt. Slaughter!** Centerfold: Brian Pillman. Plus: Horsemen, Lex Luger, Eric Embry, Demolition.
**August 1991 (Special Issue): Supercards '91.** Centerfold: Hulk Hogan. Plus: WrestleMania VII, WCW-New Japan, Ultimate Warrior, Owen Hart, Koloff-Luger.
**October 1991: Sid Justice: The Second Coming Of Hulk Hogan.** Centerfold: Lex Luger. Plus: Hogan-Slaughter, Terrence Taylor, Barry Windham, Williams-Bigelow.
**November 1991: Your Wedding Gift For Savage & Elizabeth: Help Lift The "Macho Man's" Suspension!** Centerfold: Bobby Eaton. Plus: Tito Santana, Bushwhackers, Jushin Liger, Brian Pillman.
**January 1992: Ric Flair: He'll Make Hulk Hogan Look Like An Amateur.** Centerfold: Ron Simmons. Plus: Rick Steiner, Ultimate Warrior, Lex Luger.
**February 1992: Has Hulk Hogan Had Enough?** Centerfold: 1992 calendar. Plus: Sting, Justice-Roberts, hot prospects, Eddie Gilbert.
**May 1992: Revitalized In Tokyo: Hulk Hogan Is Super-Psyched For WrestleMania VII!** Centerfold: Rick Rude. Plus: Sting & Muta-Steiners, Jarrett & Fuller, Lightning Kid, Randy Savage, intimidation.
**June 1992: Exclusive *PWI* Interview: Roddy Piper Speaks Out!** Centerfold: Dustin Rhodes. Plus: Dangerously-Sting, Abdullah-Cactus, Sid Justice, Randy Savage.
**July 1992: The Best Of The Best—The Masters Of Their Craft.** Centerfold: Randy Savage. Plus: Liger-Pillman, Jim Neidhart, U.S.-Japan, Ric Flair.
**September 1992: Savage vs. Sting: Why It**

**Isn't That Unlikely.** Centerfold: Nikita Koloff. Plus: Steiners, Barry Windham, Sid Justice, Hodge & Weston, Shawn Michaels.
**October 1992: The Hatred Still Runs Deep: Ultimate Warrior vs. Randy Savage—They'll Settle Up At SummerSlam!** Centerfold: Cactus Jack. Plus: Steve Williams, Tom Zenk, WWF title controversy, fire match, Eric Embry.
**November 1992: The British Bulldog: Hounding The Hitman.** Centerfold: Ultimate Warrior. Plus: Honky Tonk Man, Steiners, Undertaker, Madusa, perfect wrestler.
**January 1993: New WWF World Champion Ric Flair: His SummerSlam Plan Works To Perfection.** Centerfold: Jeff Jarrett. Plus: Ron Simmons, Kerry Von Erich, Rude-Roberts-Steamboat.
**February 1993: No One Can Cut Down Razor Ramon.** Centerfold: Curt Hennig. Plus: Jake Roberts, Pillman-Dustin, Ric Flair-Road Warriors, Rick Rude, Snuka-Muraco.
**May 1993: WrestleMania Without Hulk Hogan?** Centerfold: The Undertaker. Plus: Ron Simmons, Cactus Jack, Madusa-Sherri, WCW-New Japan, Ultimate Warrior.
**April 1996: WCW World Title Turmoil.** Centerfold: The Kid. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Ahmed Johnson, Bob Armstrong, Michaels-Bret, Public Enemy.
**May 1996: Un-Natural! The WWF Has Finally Gone Too Far!** Centerfold: Public Enemy. Plus: Jeff Jarrett, Dreamer-Raven, Dan Severn, Ric Flair, Giant.
**October 1996: Peaking Too Soon: Will The Giant Be Ruined By His Own Success?** Centerfold: Goldust. Plus: Big Van Vader, Ric Flair, Bulldog, Lex Luger.
**Winter 1996 (Special Issue): *PWI* 500.** Centerfold: Shawn Michaels.
**February 1997: Mr. Perfect: "Shawn Michaels Stole My Life."** Centerfold: "Psycho" Sid. Plus: Kroffat & Furnas, Vince McMahon, Randy Savage, New Razor & New Diesel.
**April 1997: How Winning The Title Saved Psycho Sid's Sanity.** Centerfold: Hulk Hogan. Plus: Rocky Maivia, Jeff Jarrett, Unofficial/Officials, Chris Jericho.
**February 1998: Sting vs. Hogan—The Match Of The Century!** Centerfold: Hogan vs. Sting fight poster. Plus: 16-page Starrcade preview, Perry Saturn, Dude Love.
**March 1998 (Special Issue): 1997—The Year In Wrestling.** 1997 In Review, Achievement '97 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 1998.
**April 1998: The DeGeneration X Debate: Will It Save Or Ruin The WWF?** Centerfold: Ken Shamrock. Plus: Bret Hart, Undertaker-Kane, Melanie Pillman.
**May 1998: Starrcade Scandal! We Hate To Say It ... But Give The Belt Back To Hogan:** Centerfold: Ric Flair. Plus: Mero & Sable, Taz, Taka Michinoku.
**June 1998 (Special Issue):** The 1998 PWI Poll. Centerfold: Steve Austin. Plus: Sabu, Lex Luger, Sting, Rocky Maivia, Bill Goldberg.
**July 1998: WWF vs. WCW: Which Is Better?** Centerfold: Benoit, Bill Goldberg, Ahmed Johnson.
**October 1998: Bret Screws Bret, Part II.** Centerfold: Hunter Hearst Helmsley. Plus: Jim Ross, Marcus Bagwell, WWF controversy, FBI.
**December 1998: Gold Rush! Get Ready For The Most Awesome WCW Title Reign Ever!** Centerfold: Undertaker. Plus: The Giant, Vader, Guerreros, Ken Shamrock.
**Holiday 1998 (100-Page Special Issue): *PWI* 500.** Eighth Annual Special.
**January 1999: No Evil! Can Today's Fans Accept The Warrior's Creed?** Centerfold: Chyna. Plus: Sting, Bill Goldberg, Summerslam.
**February 1999: The 50 Most Beautiful People In Wrestling!** Centerfold: The Nitro Girls.
**March 1999 (100-Page Special Issue): 1998—The Year In Wrestling.** 1998 In Review, Achievement '98 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 1999.
**April 1999: The Crock! The Title Change That Screwed The World!** Centerfold: Chris Jericho. Plus: Bill Goldberg, Tommy Dreamer, Booker T, more Unofficial/Officials.
**May 1999: Who Holds The Key To WrestleMania XV?** Centerfold: Konnan. Plus: Mark Henry, Sting-Nash, Bill Alfonso, Brian Hildebrand.
**June 1999: (100-Page Special Issue): The 1999 *PWI* Poll.** Plus: Mankind, Flair & Turner, VMac, Steiners, New Japan-UFO.
**July 1999: Warning! This Team Will Self-Destruct In 15 Seconds!** Centerfold: X-Pac. Plus: New Jack-Dudleys, Jesse James, Venis & Godfather, Sting-Bischoff-Flair.
**August 1999: (100-Page Special Issue): Supercards '99: WWF WrestleMania, WCW Uncensored, ECW Living Dangerously.** Plus: Super 8, Bam Bam Bigelow, Jerry Lawler, tag team wrestling.
**September 1999: Why Stone-Cold Might Get Out While He's Still On Top!** Centerfold: Sting. Plus: Kidman & Misterio, The Rock, Bret Hart, Taz-Sabu.
**October 1999: Why The World Must Fear Scott Steiner, By Buff Bagwell.** Centerfold: Mankind. Plus: Kane & X-Pac, The Godfather, Perry Saturn, 20th anniversary readers' poll.
**November 1999: The Women Of The WWF: There's More To Their Power Than Their Looks.** Centerfold: Owen Hart. Plus: Rey Misterio Jr., Roddy Piper, Steiners, Steve Austin.
**December 1999: Steve Austin: "CEO This! I'm The Damn Champ!"** Centerfold: Rey Misterio Jr. Plus: Randy Savage, Jimmy Hart, WCW youth, Billy Gunn.
**Holiday 1999 (100-Page Special Issue): *PWI* 500.** Ninth Annual Special.
**January 2000: The Millennium Man Mouths Off! An Unforgettable Hour With Chris Jericho!** Centerfold: Taz. Plus: Chris Benoit, Sid-Goldberg, Triple-H.
**February 2000: The Master Manipulator! How Stone-Cold Controls The WWF.** Centerfold: Kane. Plus: Paul Heyman, Hogan-Bret-Sting-Luger.
**March 2000 (100-Page Special Issue): 1999—The Year In Wrestling.** 1999 In Review, Achievement '99 awards, Unofficial/Official awards, Predictions for 2000.
**April 2000: The Rock vs. Stone-Cold: Let's Settle It At WrestleMania.** Centerfold: Chris Benoit. Plus: DDP, Goldberg-Sid, more Unofficial/Officials.
**May 2000 (100-Page Special Issue): The Y2K *PWI* Poll.** Plus: Mitsuharu Misawa, Triple-H, Bret Hart, Hollys, Chyna & Aysa, ECW returnees.
**June 2000: Just Wondering, Steph ... Is Triple-H Worth Your Billion-Dollar Inheritance?** Centerfold: The Rock. Plus: Heyman-Van Dam, Vader, NWO.
**July 2000: Call It A Wrap, Jack! You've Done Your Share ... Go Home!** Centerfold: Sid Vicious. Plus: Dusty Rhodes, Disco Inferno, DDP, Dudleys-Hardys.
**August 2000 (100-Page Special Issue): Supercards 2000: WWF WrestleMania, WCW Uncensored, ECW Living Dangerously.** Plus: Rob Van Dam, greatest supercards, Super 8.
**September 2000: Wrestle McMania! Why The Peace Can't Last.** Centerfold: Jeff Jarrett. Plus: Eric Bischoff, Dudleys, Raven.
**October 2000: Scott Steiner: The Superstar The WWF Let Slip Away:** Centerfold: Rikishi. Plus: Shawn Michaels, Austin-Rock, Rhino-RVD.
**November 2000: The Rock vs. Triple-H. Our Special 50-Category Analysis.** Pinups: Extreme wrestling. Plus: Nash-Steiner-Hall, Hardcore Holly, wrestling too extreme?
**December 2000: Head Hog! Does Undertaker Have Enough Gas In His Tank To Rumble To The Top?** Centerfold: Dallas Page. Plus: Kurt Angle, Rikishi, Vampiro-Sting, Japan.


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# the JAPAN REPORT

**By Mike Spillane**

AS RECENTLY AS 18 months ago, it looked like **Genichiro Tenryu's** career was coming to an end. After all, his 50th birthday was fast approaching, and not many men win major titles at that age. But then, on December 10, 1999, he stunned fans and critics alike by capturing the IWGP heavyweight title.

As it turned out, that *wasn't* his last huge victory, either.

Since leaving New Japan to help the struggling All-Japan group last summer, Tenryu has been showing his resilience yet again. At the end of October, Tenryu advanced to the finals of the All-Japan Triple Crown tournament (the championship had been vacant since the departure of **Kenta Kobashi**, who last held the titles). Opposite Tenryu in the finals bracket was heavy favorite **Toshiaki Kawada**, Tenryu's tag team partner in the '80s, as well as a former Triple Crown champion.

To the surprise of many, following a series of hard kicks and a Northern Lights bomb, Tenryu pinned Kawada cleanly to win the titles. This marked the first time in more than a decade that Tenryu had held a title in All-Japan.

Shockwaves were felt throughout the *puroresu* landscape as a result. Ever the subject of controversy, **Atsushi Onita** immediately issued a challenge to the new champion, demanding an exploding electrified cage match with Tenryu. This was unexpected, because as recently as the day before, it was believed that Onita and Tenryu might form a *team* in All-Japan.

**Not many fans in Japan expected Genichiro Tenryu to beat Toshiaki Kawada in for the All-Japan Triple Crown in a tournament final. It's possible we'll be calling Tenryu the *Quadruple* Crown champion soon.**

Just 24 hours after Tenryu's landmark victory, New Japan responded. Following a hard-fought win over **Yuji Nagata**, former IWGP heavyweight champ **Kensuke Sasaki** publicly stated his desire to see both Kawada and Tenryu entered into the tournament to crown the next IWGP titlist.

Popular belief is that the brackets will only allow for eight participants, and New Japan matchmakers may not be receptive to giving two of those eight slots to All-Japan wrestlers, so it's possible that neither will be entered.

The Japanese media, as well as long-time Sasaki fans, was invigorated by Sasaki's announcement, which indicates that he does, indeed, have a strong desire to compete against the best in the country. Sasaki was the last man to hold the IWGP heavyweight title, but after dropping a non-title match to Kawada earlier in the year, he chose to vacate the championship. Sasaki felt that by virtue of his loss to Kawada, he was unworthy of the distinction as New Japan's champion.

If Tenryu does get involved, he will have the chance to make the Triple Crown a Quadruple Crown.

On the same card that saw Sasaki issue the challenge to Kawada and Tenryu, **Minoru Tanaka** captured the IWGP junior heavyweight title from **Tatsuhito Takaiwa**. Tanaka is also co-holder of the IWGP junior tag team title with **Koji Kanemoto**. The two of them have a great chance to dominate the junior tag division, as their styles mesh perfectly.

**Shinya Hashimoto** drew the attention of the Japanese media when he announced that he would open his own promotion, a group called ZERO. Hashimoto has continued to insist that he is a free agent in Japan, although many fans believe he is still employed by New Japan. In spite of those rumors, Hashimoto has begun talks with NOAH, which indicates he is likely telling the truth about his status.

While All-Japan and New Japan are working together, Hashimoto wants to cut a deal with **Mitsuharu Misawa's** group, a strong rival of All-Japan. If the deal could be inked, a match widely chosen as the heavyweight bout fans would most like to see could become a reality. *Puroresu* enthusiasts have been clamoring for a match between Hashimoto and Misawa since the mid-'90s.

*Soo da, sayonara!* □

# the MEXICO REPORT

By Mike Spillane

HECTOR GARZA IS a lucky fellow, and his adoring female fans are thankful for this. During the past few months, Garza, who has quickly become one of the top performers in AAA, has met a number of adversaries in hair vs. hair matches. So far, Garza has managed to successfully avoid the clippers each time. The legions of Garza fans out their breathe a sigh of relief each time his hand is raised in victory in such a contest.

They truly like their high-flying hero with a full head of hair.

Most recently, Garza defeated **Toro Irisson** in Veracruz to keep his black locks firmly in place. Irisson's hair was shaved off at the end of the night. On that same card, **Pirata Morgan** and **El Texano** successfully defended the Mexican National tag team title against **Heavy Metal** and **Perro Aguayo Jr.**

Garza wasn't completely out of the fire with that win, though, as AAA promoted a giant eight-man cage match just a week later. According to prematch stipulations, the last man left inside the cage would lose his hair. Initially, Garza escaped the cage along with **Jerry Estrada**, **Latin Lover**, **Zorro**, and others. Left inside the cage were Heavy Metal and Aguayo Jr., which prompted Garza to re-enter the cage and punish his arch-rival, Heavy Metal. Positioned outside the cage, referee **Tirantes** then entered the cage to force Garza back out, but in the ensuing melee, Garza, Metal, and Aguayo Jr. all tumbled out.

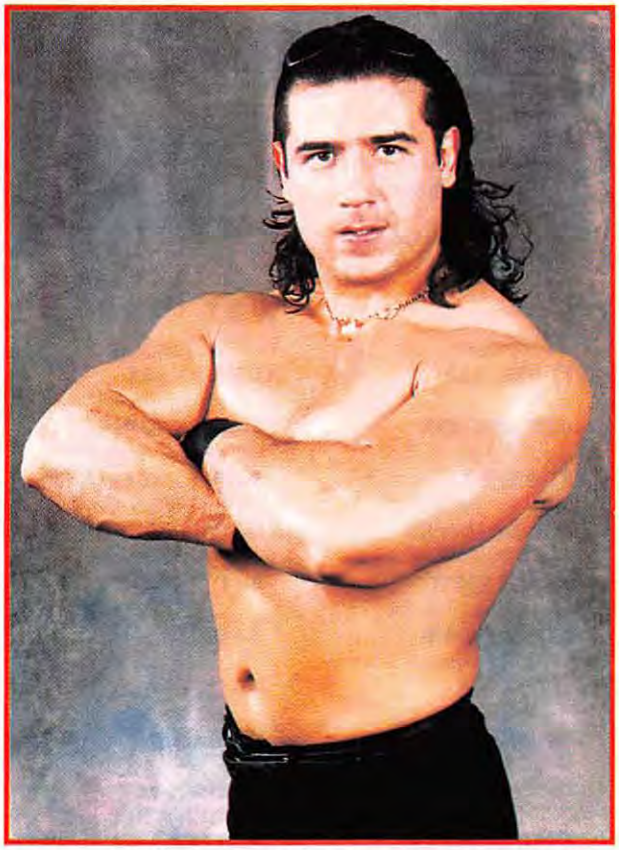
Unfortunately for Tirantes, that made him the last man in the cage. While stipulation matches often amount to nothing here in the United States, Mexican promotions tend to adhere to them very strictly. So Tirantes, the last man in the ring at the end of the cage match, had his head shaved before a giant crowd in Monterrey.

Anticipation for a wild IWRG stipulation match in Arena Queretaro is building. Dubbed *Ruleta de la Muerte* ("The Roulette Of Death"), the first stage begins with an eight-man battle royal. Teams are them formed based on the order of elimination, so that the eight men are ultimately divided into four tag teams. Those teams then do battle, with both of the *losing* teams advancing. The two men that lose both rounds of *Ruleta de la Muerte* go on to wrestle against each other in a mask vs. mask match to end the show.

The eight men, of whom one will be unmasked by the night's end, are as follows: **Super Parka**, **Black Dragon**, **Guardian**, **Moon Walker**, **El Hijo Del Diablo**, **Oficial**, **El Enterrador**, and **Fantasma Jr.**

Another mask might be on the line soon, but this time, it's the most legendary mask in Lucha Libre history. **El Hijo del Santo** has openly challenged retiring veteran **Perro Aguayo** to put his hair up against Santo's legendary silver hood in what would no doubt be a dream match for many fans. Both Santo and Aguayo have strong records in these types of matches, but no date has been selected for the match. Aguayo, whom many compare to **Ric Flair** in the United States, has been on a long retirement tour.

Santo, who is significantly younger than Aguayo, has been called the **Shawn Michaels** of Lucha Libre, but that moniker was assigned before Michaels suffered a career-ending back injury. Wearing a mask just like **El Santo's**, El Hijo del Santo continues the proud legacy his father began in the 1950s. Santo now fights to keep that legacy intact by never losing the silver mask that is not only his, but his father's trademark as well. No mask better represents the traditions of Lucha Libre than that of El Hijo del Santo. □



**For now at least, Hector Garza still has that long black hair. He has put it on the line in many a AAA match recently, and he hasn't had the clippers taken to it yet.**

# PWI®

## TOP 10

1. **SCOTT STEINER**
   *275, Detroit, MI*
   **(5) WCW World champion**
2. **BILLY GUNN**
   *268, Austin, TX*
   **(-) WWF Intercontinental champion**
3. **GENICHIRO TENRYU**
   *235, Tokyo, Japan*
   **(3) All-Japan Triple Crown champion**
4. **THE UNDERTAKER**
   *328, Death Valley, CA*
   **(-) No. 2 contender: WWF World title**
5. **BOOKER T**
   *250, Houston, TX*
   **(1) No. 2 contender: WCW World title**
6. **STEVE AUSTIN**
   *252, Victoria, TX*
   **(-) No. 3 contender: WWF World title**
7. **KURT ANGLE**
   *233, Pittsburgh, PA*
   **(4) WWF World champion**
8. **GEN. RECTION**
   *310, Titusville, FL*
   **(9) WCW U.S. champion**
9. **THE ROCK**
   *272, Miami, FL*
   **(2) No. 4 contender: WWF World title**
10. **STEVE CORINO**
    *219, Sea Isle City, NJ*
    **(8) ECW World champion**

*Kurt Angle*

## TAG TEAMS

1. **MARK JINDRAK & SEAN O'HAIRE**
   *Combined weight: 503 pounds*
   **(3) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title**
2. **BULL BUCHANAN & THE GOODFATHER**
   *Combined weight: 665 pounds*
   **(9) WWF World tag tream champions**
3. **SATOSHI KOJIMA & HIROYOSHI TENZAN**
   *Combined weight: 493 pounds*
   **(4) IWGP International tag team champions**
4. **JEFF & MATT HARDY**
   *Combined weight: 422 pounds*
   **(1) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title**
5. **DANNY DORING & ROADKILL**
   *Combined weight: 533 pounds*
   **(-) ECW World tag team champions**
6. **KEVIN NASH & DALLAS PAGE**
   *Combined weight: 616 pounds*
   **(-) WCW World tag team champions**
7. **CHRISTIAN & EDGE**
   *Combined weight: 465 pounds*
   **(5) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title**
8. **TONY MAMALUKE & LITTLE GUIDO MARITATO**
   *Combined weight: 420 pounds*
   **(2) No. 1 contenders: ECW World tag title**
9. **CHUCK PALUMBO & SHAWN STASIAK**
   *Combined weight: 516 pounds*
   **(-) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title**
10. **TEST & ALBERT**
    *Combined weight: 642 pounds*
    **(7) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title**

## WCW

*World Champion:*
**SCOTT STEINER**
*(2) 275, Detroit, MI*

**1—GEN. RECTION**
*(1) 310, Titusville, FL*
**2—BOOKER T**
*(C) 250, Houston, TX*
**3—BILL GOLDBERG**
*(3) 283, Tulsa, OK*
**4—JEFF JARRETT**
*(5) 230, Nashville, TN*
**5—LANCE STORM**
*(6) 231, Calgary, Alberta*
**6—LEX LUGER**
*(-) 275, Chicago, IL*
**7—CROWBAR**
*(-) 232, Pacific Palisades, CA*
**8—BIG VITO**
*(-) 265, Staten Island, NY*
**9—MIKE SANDERS**
*(8) 230, Atlanta, GA*
**10—THE CAT**
*(-) 235, Atlanta, GA*

## WWF

*World Champion:*
**KURT ANGLE**
*(C) 233, Pittsburgh, PA*

**1—BILLY GUNN**
*(-) 268, Austin, TX*
**2—THE UNDERTAKER**
*(-) 328, Death Valley, CA*
**3—STEVE AUSTIN**
*(6) 252, Victoria, TX*
**4—THE ROCK**
*(2) 272, Miami, FL*
**5—TRIPLE-H**
*(3) 284, Greenwich, CT*
**6—STEVE BLACKMAN**
*(9) 245, Annville, PA*
**7—RIKISHI**
*(7) 424, San Francisco, CA*
**8—CHRIS BENOIT**
*(5) 218, Edmonton, Alberta*
**9—KANE**
*(-) 345, parts unknown*
**10—WILLIAM REGAL**
*(8) 257, Blackpool, England*

## ECW

*World Champion:*
**STEVE CORINO**
*(C) 219, Sea Isle City, NJ*

**1—RHINO**
*(1) 285, Detroit, MI*
**2—JUSTIN CREDIBLE**
*(2) 227, Waterbury, CT*
**3—JERRY LYNN**
*(3) 224, Minneapolis, MN*
**4—SPIKE DUDLEY**
*(-) 155, Providence, RI*
**5—THE SANDMAN**
*(5) 244, Philadelphia, PA*
**6—C.W. ANDERSON**
*(8) 230, Raleigh, NC*
**7—NOVA**
*(6) 214, Bricktown, NJ*
**8—TOMMY DREAMER**
*(-) 265, Yonkers, NY*
**9—SUPER CRAZY**
*(-) 215, Mexico City, Mexico*
**10—KID KASH**
*(4) 202, Johnson City, TN*

## NWA

*NWA Champion:*
**SABU**
*(10) 220, Bombay, India*

**1—MIKE RAPADA**
*(C) 231, Colorado Springs, CO*
**2—STONE MOUNTAIN**
*(1) 350, Stone Mountain, GA*
**3—GARY STEELE**
*(-) 241, London, England*
**4—911**
*(5) 312, Philadelphia, PA*
**5—PRESTON QUINN**
*(-) 275, Hampton, VA*
**6—BUNKHOUSE BUCK**
*(-) 252, Bucksnort, TN*
**7—BLADE BOUDREAUX**
*(7) 230, New Orleans, LA*
**8—RICKY MURDOCK**
*(-) 261, Houston, TX*
**9—DR. LUTHER**
*(-) 245, Calgary, Alberta*
**10—HOTSTUFF HERNANDEZ**
*(-) 280, Houston, TX*

# OFFICIAL RATINGS

*Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.*

**For period ended December 3, 2000**

**EASTERN WRESTLING FEDERATION: Champion**—Hungarian Barbarian; **1**—George Anthony; **2**—Big Cotton; **3**—Dino Divine; **4**—Danny Rose; **5**—Marshal Law; **6**—Rick Blade; **7**—Tommy Idol; **8**—Mike Quackenbush; **9**—Nicky Benz; **10**—Mongoose.

**FRONTIER MARTIAL ARTS WRESTLING: Champion**—Kodo Fuyuki; **1**—Kintaro Kanemura; **2**—Masato Tanaka; **3**—Tetsuo Kuroda; **4**—Hisakatsu Oya; **5**—Manmoth Sasaki; **6**—Gedo; **7**—Jado; **8**—Goemon; **9**—Hideki Hosaka; **10**—Pogo the Clown.

**GLOBAL PRO WRESTLING: Champion**—Tim Storm; **1**—James Grizzly; **2**—Blade Boudreaux; **3**—Treach Phillips Jr.; **4**—The Madd Chef; **5**—Dexter Hardaway; **6**—Scott Storm; **7**—Tojo Jr.; **8**—Rude Dawg; **9**—Rick Justice; **10**—T.S. Aggressor.

**MARYLAND CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion**—Adam Flash; **1**—Jimmy Cicero; **2**—Bruiser; **3**—Corporal Punishment; **4**—Julio Dinero; **5**—Gillberg; **6**—The Policy; **7**—King Kong Bundy; **8**—Chad Bowman; **9**—Ronnie Zukko; **10**—Romeo Valentino.

**MICHINOKU PRO WRESTLING: Champion**—Title Vacant; **1**—Great Sasuke; **2**—Tiger Mask; **3**—Gran Hamada; **4**—Jinsei Shinzaki; **5**—CIMA; **6**—Magnum Tokyo; **7**—Apachi; **8**—Sumo Fuji 2000; **9**—The Pentagon; **10**—Sasuke the Great.

**NORTH AMERICAN WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion**—Gino Blanchard; **1**—Bob Ozark; **2**—Dorty Reid; **3**—The Intimidator; **4**—Frank Parker; **5**—Shane Hooker; **6**—Roger Anderson; **7**—Rolling Thunder; **8**—Johnny Smalls; **9**—Scotty Blaze; **10**—Mr. Breeze.

**NWA EAST: Champion**—Quinn Magnum; **1**—Mad Mike; **2**—Guido Corleone; **3**—Super Hentai; **4**—Scott Venom; **5**—The Mantis; **6**—Brandon K; **7**—Samu; **8**—Homicyde; **9**—Orion; **10**—Boomer Payne.

**NWA WILDSIDE: Champion**—Stone Mountain; **1**—Jessie Taylor; **2**—Timber; **3**—Shank; **4**—A.J. Styles; **5**—Onyx; **6**—Air Paris; **7**—Lazz; **8**—Gemini; **9**—Mike Youngblood; **10**—White Trash.

**OKLAHOMA PRO WRESTLING: Champion**—Rocco Valentino; **1**—Chief Red Eagle; **2**—Bull Schmitt; **3**—Bolo; **4**—Splash Jackson; **5**—Vinnie Valentino; **6**—Big Daddy Moore; **7**—Renegade; **8**—Brandon Groom; **9**—Joey Casanova; **10**—Shadow of Death.

**PRO WRESTLING NOAH: Champion**—Title Vacant; **1**—Jun Akiyama; **2**—Mitsuharu Misawa; **3**—Kenta Kobashi; **4**—Vader; **5**—Takao Omori; **6**—Yoshihiro Takayama; **7**—Yoshinari Ogawa; **8**—Akira Taue; **9**—Takishi Rikioh; **10**—Daisuke Ikeda.

**RHODE ISLAND WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion**—Wolverine; **1**—Danger Boy Alfredo; **2**—Danny Cama; **3**—Thrash; **4**—Mael; **5**—Lord Davios; **6**—Dave Padula; **7**—Danny Boy O'Callahan; **8**—Pierre the Mountie; **9**—The Intern; **10**—Cassy Straytor.

**WORLD LEAGUE WRESTLING: Champion**—Griz; **1**—The Barbarian; **2**—Meng; **3**—Bull Schmitt; **4**—Luminous Warrior; **5**—Dustin Rhodes; **6**—Trevor Rhodes; **7**—Mr. Destiny; **8**—Bam Bam Bigelow; **9**—Drill Instructor; **10**—Matt Murphy.

## NEW JAPAN

*IWGP Champion:*
**TITLE VACANT**

**1—KENSUKE SASAKI**
*(1) 251, Tokyo, Japan*
**2—MANABU NAKANISHI**
*(2) 235, Tokyo, Japan*
**3—MASA CHONO**
*(3) 235, Tokyo, Japan*
**4—YUJI NAGATA**
*(4) 228, Tokyo, Japan*
**5—HIROYOSHI TENZAN**
*(5) 270, Tokyo, Japan*
**6—JUSHIN LIGER**
*(6) 222, Hiroshima, Japan*
**7—SATOSHI KOJIMA**
*(7) 223, Tokyo, Japan*
**8—SHIRO KOSHINAKA**
*(8) 217, Tokyo, Japan*
**9—MINORU TANAKA**
*(–) 219, Tokyo, Japan*
**10—TATSUHITO TAKAIWA**
*(10) 227, Tokyo, Japan*

## ALL-JAPAN

*Triple Crown Champion:*
**GENICHIRO TENRYU**
*(C) 235, Tokyo, Japan*

**1—TOSHIAKI KAWADA**
*(1) 245, Ashikaga, Japan*
**2—STEVE WILLIAMS**
*(3) 265, Norman, OK*
**3—MASA CHONO**
*(4) 235, Tokyo, Japan*
**4—KENSUKE SASAKI**
*(5) 251, Tokyo, Japan*
**5—MASA FUCHI**
*(6) 225, Tokyo, Japan*
**6—TAIYO KEA**
*(7) 235, Honolulu, HI*
**7—MIKE BARTON**
*(8) 263, Austin, TX*
**8—JOHNNY SMITH**
*(9) 235, Manchester, England*
**9—JINSEI SHINZAKI**
*(10) 223, Tokyo, Japan*
**10—STAN HANSEN**
*(2) 322, Borger, TX*

## EMLL

*EMLL Champion:*
**UNIVERSO DOS MIL**
*(C) 240, Mexico City, Mexico*

**1—EL HIJO DEL SANTO**
*(1) 180, Tulancingo, Mexico*
**2—CIEN CARAS**
*(2) 240, Lagos de Moreno, Mexico*
**3—PIERROTH JR.**
*(4) 251, Cuernavaca, Mexico*
**4—SCORPIO JR.**
*(6) 195, Nezahaulcoyoti, Mexico*
**5—ATLANTIS**
*(3) 180, Guadalajara, Mexico*
**6—MR. NIEBLA**
*(7) 185, Cualtitlan, Mexico*
**7—TARZAN BOY**
*(5) 218, Mexico City, Mexico*
**8—SHOCKER**
*(10) 185, Guadalajara, Mexico*
**9—NEGRO CASAS**
*(9) 175, Mexico City, Mexico*
**10—BLUE PANTHER**
*(8) 215, Mexico City, Mexico*

## AAA

*AAA Champion:*
**LATIN LOVER**
*(C) 190, Monterrey, Mexico*

**1—PERRO AGUAYO JR.**
*(2) 165, Zacatecas, Mexico*
**2—JERRY ESTRADA**
*(3) 239, Montclova, Mexico*
**3—HECTOR GARZA**
*(1) 220, Monterrey, Mexico*
**4—PIRATA MORGAN**
*(6) 221, Mexico City, Mexico*
**5—CIBERNETICO**
*(8) 235, Mexico City, Mexico*
**6—ABISMO NEGRO**
*(5) 210, Pachua, Mexico*
**7—EL CANEK**
*(7) 235, Mexico City, Mexico*
**8—HEAVY METAL**
*(–) 180, Mexico City, Mexico*
**9—EL TEXANO**
*(9) 225, Mexico City, Mexico*
**10—CHARLY MANSON**
*(–) 221, Mexico City, Mexico*

# Ratings Analysis

**Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 22 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important– and respected–ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.**

***"The One" at number two?*** Yes, you read that Top 10 you saw on page 24 correctly. **Billy Gunn** is the highest-ranked WWF wrestler in our Top 10. **The Undertaker**, **Kurt Angle**, **Steve Austin**, and **The Rock** all represent the WWF in the Top 10 as well, and though they might be wrestling in a lot more high-profile matches, we didn't feel that any one of them deserved to be ranked ahead of Gunn this month.

Billy Gunn

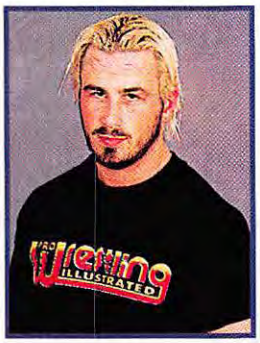
Simply put, the WWF World title picture is as crowded as it has ever been. It's so crowded, in fact, that no one has come close to dominating it recently. Angle, the WWF World heavyweight champion at press time, has been every bit as vulnerable as he has been entertaining since capturing the gold. If not for the unusual "interference" of Angle's brother, **Eric**, 'Taker almost certainly would have captured the WWF belt for a fourth time, but did you really see him as *the* dominant force in the WWF during the fall?

We didn't.

Same holds true for Austin and The Rock. They both looked strong, but they, too, were spending much of their time battling for title shots. **Rikishi** and **Triple-H** were also right in the middle of that World title mix as well. Rikishi, however, was losing most of his big matches, so we opted to leave him out of the Top 10, while Hunter's painful back and hip injuries had been forcing him to miss all WWF shows save for *Raws, Smackdowns,* and pay-per-views, so he didn't really earn a place in the Top 10.

Gunn won the Intercontinental title only about two months after returning from a shoulder injury that had kept him out of the ring for more than half of 2000. He beat **Eddie Guerrero** cleanly and has handled "Latino Heat" in several rematches since then. He has also handled numerous other challengers to his championship, including **Val Venis**. He earned that number-two ranking. Maybe he should be given a chance in that top tier of the WWF soon.

***Tough times for ECW.*** Just one ECW wrestler made the Top 10 this month, and that man is World heavyweight champion **Steve Corino**, who slid in at number 10. Yes, unfortunately, the fact that ECW is barely represented in the Top 10 is indicative of the state of the company.




Steve Corino

It's not a big secret that ECW has been having a lot of financial problems of late. As a result of this, there weren't many ECW shows held in November and December. In fact, it held just two (both on the same weekend) between its November and December pay-per-views. One thing we look at when compiling the rankings, the Top 10 in particular, is how often the various superstars work.

Corino got a huge win at Massacre on 34th Street when he beat former ECW World champions **Justin Credible** and **Jerry Lynn**, but since he hasn't had an opportunity to defend the gold very often, we don't think he deserves to be ranked above the top stars of the WWF and WCW.

By the time you read this, ECW's roster (assuming the company does survive at all) could be seriously depleted. Several of the stars whose names you see in the rankings for the promotion right now could conceivably be gone. Lynn was given permission by **Paul Heyman** to meet with WWF Vice President of Talent Relations **Jim Ross** about possibly joining the WWF, and **Rob Van Dam**, who didn't appear at the November or December ECW pay-per-views, could soon be on his way out as well (though he says he hopes everything will work out and that he will be able to stay).

Even though Heyman has proven he knows how to make stars, we have to wonder what the promotion would look like if even a few of its top stars were to depart.

Tough times, indeed.

***That's all for this issue!*** If you have any questions or comments regarding our ratings, we want to hear from you. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

**Section compiled by Dan Murphy**

*JUST HOW BIZARRE a year was 2000? After weeks of chad counting and protests, the U.S. presidency was contested in courts of law. A kid by the name of Elian Gonzalez had the nation debating the finer points of immigration. An Arena Football refugee by the name of Kurt Warner led the St. Louis Rams to the Vince Lombardi Trophy.*

*Even wrestling wasn't immune from Y2K madness. A seventysomething women going topless? Check. A 175-pound (if that) actor winning the WCW World title? Yep, that happened, too. Hulk Hogan being humiliated in front of a national pay-per-view audience? Is anyone sure what really happened at Bash at the Beach? Heck, we even had an ECW World champion vs. WWF World champion match on* ***Smackdown!***

*The WWF cemented its position as the top promotion in the world as stars like The Rock and Chyna received loads of mainstream publicity and the company went public on the stock market. The WWF showed that it's bigger than even Steve Austin, as The Rock, Triple-H, and Kurt Angle took over the World title picture and sold out arenas around the country. Even when WWF programming switched networks as part of a deal with Viacom, the federation continued to pull in strong ratings (though down from the beginning of the year).*

*The rivalry between Triple-H and The Rock pushed both men to unprecedented levels of success and invigorated the WWF singles scene. In tag action, Edge and Christian and The Hardy Boyz thrilled fans, while the Dudleys' popularity grew as they put more and more people through tables. Not even the addition of comedian Dennis Miller could make wrestling fans tune out* ***Raw*** *in favor of* ***Monday Night Football.***

*ECW was home to some of the most intense, exciting matches of the year. Unfortunately, the promotion's feud with TNN came to a head during the fall, and ECW entered the holiday season without a national TV outlet. Rumors continue to surface about the company's financial problems, and Paul Heyman has yet to recover from losing talent like Tazz, Sabu, the Dudleys, Raven, and Mike Awesome. On the upside, Jerry Lynn finally beat Rob Van Dam, and Rhino became a juggernaut.*

*WCW's year can be summed up in one word—turmoil. It's hard to believe that this is the same promotion ruled by Hogan just one year ago. TV ratings plummeted, pay-per-view buy rates hit bottom, and attendance dropped drastically. Overall, a very bad year.*

*Inside the ring, The Natural Born Thrillers became a dominant force, The Cat became a respected arbiter, WCW wrestlers invaded* ***Battledome,*** *and the world wanted to know who fathered Stacy Keibler's baby. Booker T did a lot to restore credibility to the WCW title after the David Arquette fiasco, and Scott Steiner emerged as the sport's ultimate madman.*

*Whether you consider yourself a fan of technical wrestling, brawling, hardcore, or entertaining promos, this year had something for everyone. Don't expect 2001 to be any different.*

**2000 SAW** Kurt Angle successfully make the transition from Olympic hero to World champion. Angle managed to win the WWF European, Intercontinental, and World titles, as well as the King of the Ring, all in his first year in the WWF. He also managed to become the most hated wrestler in the sport. Who would have thought an Olympic wrestler would have been so successful in the interview-conscious, turbulent world of pro wrestling?

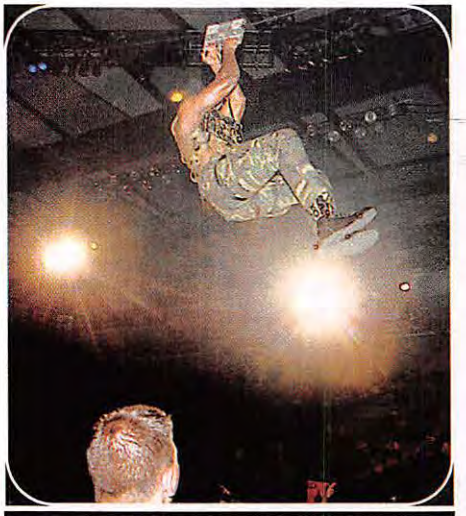
**2000 SAW** the retirement of Bret Hart, the best there is, the best there was, and the best there will be. Bret had the gift of making any match exciting. He was a ring general who knew both the subtleties of ring psychology and the art of technical wrestling and counter-wrestling. It's a shame Bret's last years in the business will be remembered for the tragic death of his brother Owen, the infamous Montreal screw job, and two years of mismanagement by WCW.

**2000 SAW** the revival of women's wrestling. The age of women as valets and valets only is over. Chyna broke down the gender barrier, and now a new generation of ultra-athletic women are trying their hand at becoming stars. Lita executes some of the most crisp huracanranas in the business. Ivory is a wily veteran, and Molly Holly and Jacquelyn are two of the best women wrestlers in the U.S. ECW has Jazz, and WCW boasts the likes of Tygress and Miss Jones.

**2000 SAW** Scott Steiner break out. Ever since the heyday of the Steiner brothers, fans waited for Scott to strike out on his own and win a world title. Those fans couldn't have foreseen the "Genetic Freak" their hero would become. Steiner is a bona fide monster. He put Sting and Booker T on the shelf and ended Stevie Ray's career. A Steiner/Goldberg clash for the belt will be one to remember. We can't wait for that to happen.

## THE BIG SHOW, ACTS I THROUGH IV

In many people's eyes, Paul Wight stole the show when The Rock guest-hosted *Saturday Night Live,* so it was only natural for The Big Show to try to spice up his ring persona to showcase his newfound charisma. Unfortunately, the big man had trouble coming up with his own gimmick. Hence Showkishi, The Showster, and The Big Valshowski. Let's hope inspiration will strike in Ohio Valley Wrestling, the promotion to which Show was sent to lose weight and improve his conditioning.



### GEN. RECTION? LT. LOCO? A LITTLE HELP HERE, GUYS?

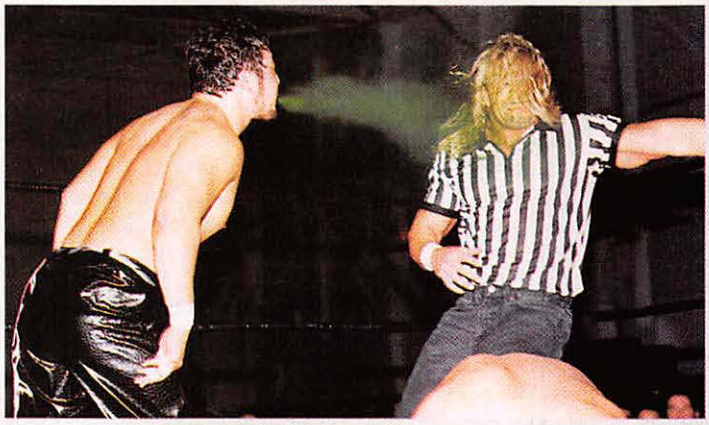
G.I. Bro was left hanging (literally!) at The Great American Bash when his dramatic entrance became a little less dramatic due to technical difficulties. Booker T was able to put this embarrassment behind him, but it wasn't much later that Booker gave the G.I. Bro persona a dishonorable discharge.

### IT'S TIME, ONCE AGAIN, FOR EVERYBODY TO STEP ABOARD THE DISTINGUISHED, RESPECTABLE WOMAN TRAIN

The Goodfather may have renounced his pimpin' lifestyle to join Right To Censor, but he just couldn't resist taking an occasional ride on the ho train, now could he?

### ALL FOR ONE, ONE FOR-AH, FORGET IT!

Chris Benoit, Eddie Guerrero, Perry Saturn, and Dean Malenko came to the WWF in what they said was a package deal. The Four Musketeers facade crumbled after just a few months, as this shot of Saturn and Terri double-teaming Guerrero clearly shows. Despite the turmoil, The Radicals reunited in support of Benoit during "The Crippler's" feud with The Rock late in the year.

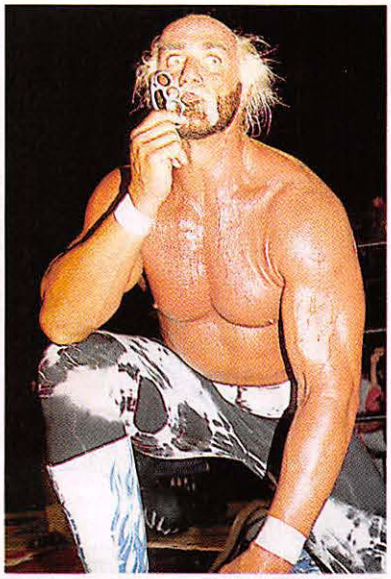


## DON'T KNOCK IT TILL YOU'VE TRIED IT

Taking a page out of the book of The Great Kabuki and The Great Muta, Yoshihiro Tajiri became quite adept at blinding opponents (and referees) with his mysterious green mist. Mikey Whipwreck got a face full of the green stuff and must have developed a taste for it; just a few weeks after this picture was taken, Mikey was teaming with "The Japanese Buzzsaw."

## SAY YOUR PRAYERS, EAT YOUR VITAMINS, AND ALWAYS KEEP YOUR BRASS KNUCKS CLEAN

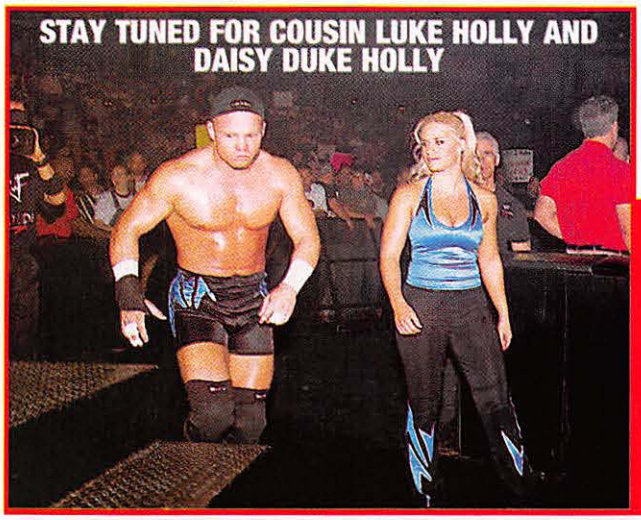
Hulk Hogan may have heard his share of cheers after the dissolution of the NWO, but he clearly learned a few lessons in rulebreaking from his days as Hollywood. Billy Kidman learned about the "Hulkster's" newest commandment the hard way.



## PIMPIN' LOOKS LIKE FUN

When The Goodfather kicked hos Mandy and Victoria to the curb, Rikishi was more than happy to rescue the damsels in distress. The alliance was short-lived, however. Just a few weeks later, GTV found Mandy and Victoria in the shower with Eddie Guerrero. No wonder Rikishi developed such a bad attitude by year's end.

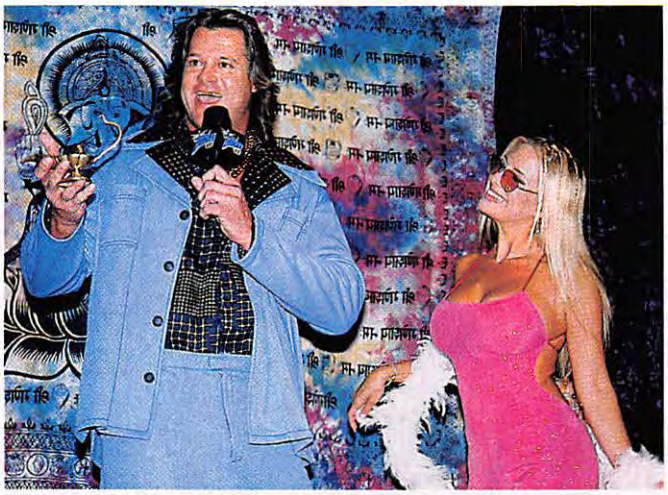
## STAY TUNED FOR COUSIN LUKE HOLLY AND DAISY DUKE HOLLY



**Just how big is this Holly family, anyway? Crash introduced the world to his "cousin" Molly Holly, who happens to bear a striking resemblance to the former Miss Madness, WCW's Mona. Around the same time Molly Holly made her debut, Hardcore Holly returned from a broken arm and the fighting Holly clan scored several wins over Test, Albert, and Trish Stratus. If she can combine Hardcore's grit with Crash's heart and her own natural athletic ability, Molly should provide a stiff challenge for Ivory and Lita in the near future.**

## THE SCREAMER IS SILENCED

Daffney Unger did what no one thought was possible—she gave David Flair a personality. Daffney's ringside rants and screams may have annoyed some fans, but she was a welcome addition to WCW—regardless of her outfit or hair color. But just as her feud with Stacy Keibler was heating up, Daffney vanished, and David went back to being a raving lunatic.

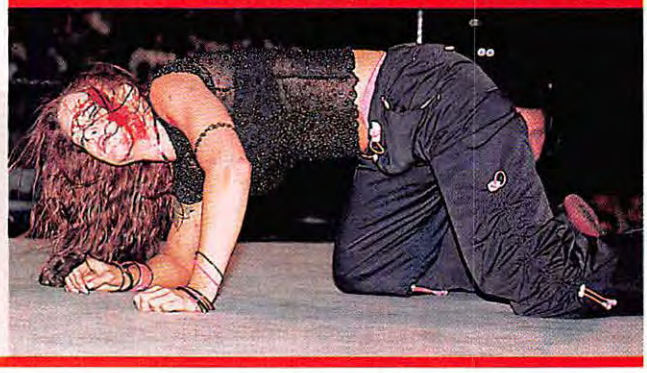


## THINK WE CAN GET A SITCOM OUT OF THIS?

Critics have given high praise to Fox's *That '70s Show*. Unfortunately for Mike Awesome, his "Lava Lamp Lounge" was canceled after just a few episodes. Maybe things would have worked out if Fez or Kelso had agreed to a cameo …

## OKAY, ONE MORE LAP AROUND THE RING, BUT THEN I WANT A HORSIE RIDE TO THE TITANTRON

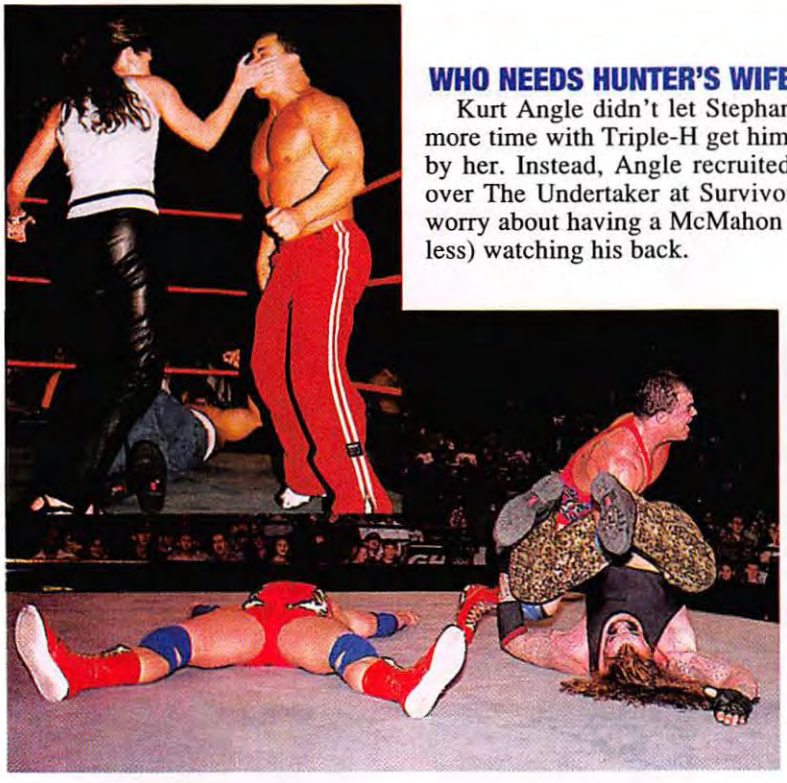
## BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, UGLY INJURY



Lita may be a fantastic high-flyer, but she got a violent introduction to the brawling aspect of the game from Ivory at Survivor Series. A hard right hand from Ivory opened a nasty gash in Lita's eyebrow, blinding the former WWF women's champion with her own blood. While Ivory may be speaking out about gratuitous sex and violence in the WWF, she made it clear that she'll resort to any level to keep her title.

## WE MIGHT AS WELL HUG BEFORE I LEAVE

One can only imagine what thoughts were racing through Raven's mind during his last ECW Arena appearance before his jump to the WWF. Sandman seemed like he wanted to send Raven away with a reminder of their long, bloody war, which the two men waged both in ECW and in WCW. Instead, Sandman offered his hand and then embraced the man who once turned both his wife and young son against him. Sandman always was a nice guy!



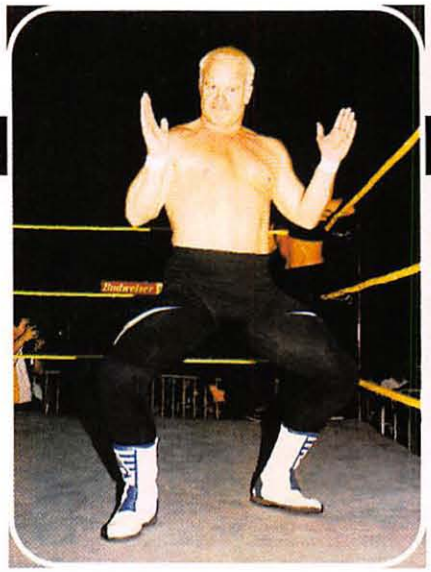
### WHO NEEDS HUNTER'S WIFE WHEN I HAVE MY LOVING BROTHER?

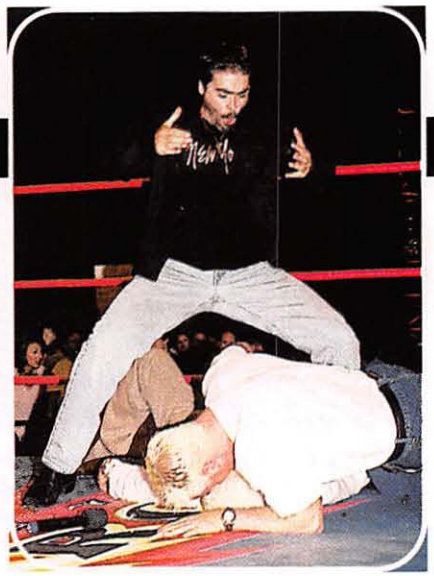
Kurt Angle didn't let Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley's decision to spend more time with Triple-H get him down. He didn't even mind getting slapped by her. Instead, Angle recruited his brother, Eric, to help him steal a win over The Undertaker at Survivor Series. At least now Kurt doesn't have to worry about having a McMahon (one who's married to his mortal enemy, no less) watching his back.

### SCOTTY TOO HOTTY GIVES US THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION WE'VE ALL BEEN WANTING TO ASK FOR SO LONG: DOES GRANDMASTER SEXAY WEAR BOXERS OR BRIEFS?

### HE'S LIKE A GREAT BIG, BLOODY TEDDY BEAR

Believe it or not, even Abdullah the Butcher has his fans (wasn't there a time when people *feared* him?). Here, a group of kids cuddle with the scarlet-faced madman from the Sudan even as he holds his infamous bloodletting fork dangerously nearby. Abby's fans fared considerably better than most of the ageless Butcher's opponents in Puerto Rico this year.





## FURTHER PROOF THAT THE CROTCH CHOP HAS BECOME PASSE

Sure, it looked kinda cool when Scott Hall and Kevin Nash we're doing it, and DeGeneration X made the crotch chop unique by adding a little group choreography, but it's high time for the chop to be retired. Come on, how seriously can you take a taunt when it's being delivered by, (A) a smiling, middle-aged Stan Lane, (B) a rotund, decidedly unhip Paul Bearer, and (C) a paunchy Vince Russo? Even Mae Young's version looked more intimidating.

## YOUR MANTIS-STYLE KUNG FU IS NO MATCH FOR MY HARDCORE STICKS OF DOOM, GRASSHOPPER

Steve Blackman's hardcore title defenses against Sho Funaki at times more resembled old episodes of *Kung Fu* than the hardcore, table-smashing matches we've become accustomed to watching. Blackman easily handled Funaki (even with the kendo stick) and proved to be quite adept with his martial arts sticks, which he used to collect wins over the likes of Al Snow, Kane, William Regal, and Perry Saturn.

## AND NOW FOR THE MOST FORGETTABLE HEEL TURN IN WRESTLING HISTORY

Vince Russo and Eric Bischoff promised to deliver a surprise that would turn the wrestling world on its ear at The Great American Bash. We can only imagine this is what they were referring to. In fact, Bischoff came out earlier in the night and declared the big surprise was ... that there was no surprise. Vinnie Ru and "Easy E" must have breathed a sigh of relief when Goldberg did surprise Kevin Nash with this spear. However, Goldberg later claimed he never wanted to be the bad guy and declared war upon Russo. Maybe that was the real surprise. *Huh?* Following WCW storylines can really give you a headache.

## IN THE TRADITION OF THE GRAND WIZARD, LOU ALBANO, AND FREDDIE BLASSIE, MAY WE PRESENT ... KEVIN KELLY?!

Kevin Kelly may not seem like an evil mastermind while providing commentary with Michael Cole in the WWF, but he's become a nightmare to promoter Jim Kettner and the fan favorites of the Delaware-based ECWA. Kelly is the leader of the organization's top rulebreaking stable, The Alliance of Defiance, which includes tag team champions The Haas Brothers. Kelly has shown he's not above interfering in his charges' matches. Maybe soon he'll try to take over the WWF. Hey, he even got Cole to turn heel in the ECWA!

## WE'RE GOING TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD–JUST AS SOON AS WE CLEAN UP ALL OF THIS RED STUFF

When Vince Russo and Eric Bischoff took the helms of WCW on April 10, they promised they were going to "level the playing field" and let the promotion's young lions compete with the sacred cows. But The New Blood vs. The Millionaires Club feud fizzled after just a few months when Lex Luger, Hulk Hogan, Sting, and DDP all ended up on the sidelines for various reasons. As for The New Blood, Buff Bagwell and Shane Douglas are still stuck in the mid-card, Chris Candido and Tammy Sytch are gone from WCW, and Vince Russo is still AWOL with a concussion. At least New Blooder Scott Steiner won the WCW title at Mayhem.

## HOW ABOUT WE CALL THIS FEUD OFF, TAKE A DRIVE DOWN JABRONI BOULEVARD, AND GET A LITTLE, *UM*, DESSERT, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

Shane McMahon appears to be thrilled by The Rock's offer to put aside their differences at the end of one *Raw Is War*. For a McMahon, Shane O'Mac proved to be way too trusting. Right after this shot was taken, The Rock planted Shane with a Rock bottom and followed up with a people's elbow to the delight of the fans in attendance. As for that handshake? The Rock offered to take Shane's hand, wash it up real nice, turn it sideways and ... well, you get the point.

## KIMBER-ME

Eric Bischoff didn't have too many successes after he returned to WCW this year. In fact, since Russo's dismissal of long-time Bischoff pal Hulk Hogan at Bash at the Beach, Bischoff has yet to return to TV. But Bischoff's swagger was in full swing after he convinced Kimberly to drop her husband, Dallas Page, to concentrate on her own career. Kimberly became Kimber-Me, and Eric's smile put the Cheshire Cat to shame.

# QUOTABLES '00

*"My words could not describe how much I respect that guy. I mean, let's face it, he doesn't have a lot going for him physically. He's not really physically talented. He's probably just the toughest man I've ever met in terms of his ability to take pain."*

**—Vader, on Mick Foley, "Press Conference," *PWI*, June 2000**

*"Realistically, it's probably going to be more money than I've ever made. So 15 years from now, when everyone has forgiven me, my kids' college will be taken care of."*

**—Mick Foley, defending his decision to wrestle one more match at WrestleMania 2000 just weeks after losing a retirement match, *USA Today***

*"You're not the only good-looking guy in this group."*

**—Perry Saturn, responding to his fellow Radical Eddie Guerrero's boasts about how enamored Chyna was with Guerrero, WrestleMania 2000**

*"He has a horrible reputation for sucking real bad at returning phone calls, and he lives up to it very much."*

**—Rob Van Dam, on Paul Heyman, "Press Conference," *PWI*, August 2000**

*"Scott, you get under the table and I'll get under there with you."*

**—Tony Schiavone, to Scott Hudson, as a menacing Tank Abbott approached the broadcasters table at *Nitro***

*"Holy s___!"*

**—Overheard at the ECW card in Indianapolis on April 13 as an unadvertised Tazz came to the ring to challenge (and beat) Mike Awesome for the ECW title**

*"I feel that [Mike Awesome] as the World champion from ECW going to **Nitro** is horrible. I'm old school. I'm a firm believer in doing business the right way when you're going out the door. No matter how much animosity you have with the boss, you still owe your locker room as World champion and your fans that moment when you pass [the belt] on to another wrestler."*

**—Tazz, interview on wrestlingobserver.com**

*"WCW is making a mistake by pushing small no-names such as Kidman who can't headline a flea market indy wrestling show."*

**—Hulk Hogan, questioning WCW's booking strategy, Bubba the Love Sponge's radio show**

*"Have you seen Flair lately? The 60-minute man has had 50 minutes revoked. Space Mountain should be condemned. He's as old as my father!"*

**—Billy Kidman, complaining about members of WCW's Millionaires Club hogging the spotlight, "Hotseat," *Inside Wrestling*, September 2000**

*"I believe the term pro wrestler has become passe. When people view the character of The Rock, professional wrestler isn't the first thing they think of. They think of larger-than-life television entertainer or artist."*

**—The Rock, *Baltimore Sun*, March 15**

*"What the hell kind of family did I marry into?"*

**—Triple-H, wondering aloud about the McMahons after Stephanie slapped Linda and Vince threatened to spank Stephanie, *Raw***

*"I'll revoke your work visa and you'll be back in Big Japan doing thumbtack matches with Abdullah the Butcher!"*

**—Cyrus, threatening Yoshihiro Tajiri with deportation, *ECW On TNN***

*"Do you have any idea how hard it is to get a title off of a guy from Calgary? Ask Vince McMahon."*

**—Lance Storm, after he and Justin Credible beat Tommy Dreamer and Raven for the ECW tag title on January 7**

*"Vince and I have been very chummy together; we've hugged and shook hands and kissed each other on the cheek and been the best of buddies, but we've also been chest-to-chest with our fingers in each other's faces, pushing each other back and forth. Vince has commented to me a number of times that he's never had that kind of relationship with another wrestler."*

**—Shawn Michaels, "Press Conference," *PWI*, October 2000**

*"We have barbed-wire matches, and there are times the barbed wire isn't gimmicked, but nobody kills anybody ... We use staple guns with no staples. Sometimes my guys go overboard and use staples, but the staples won't even be an inch long. They'll be as small as possible."*

**—Jersey All-Pro Wrestling promoter "Fat" Frank Iadeviaia, on the extreme wrestling controversy in New Jersey, *PWI*, November 2000**

*"I promise everybody, or I'll go in a goddamn grave, you will not see that piece of s___ again!"*

**—Vince Russo, after he ordered Jeff Jarrett to lay down for Hulk Hogan at Bash at the Beach, prompting Hogan to walk out of the company (and subsequently file a lawsuit)**

*"I also want to thank each of you for allowing me to be a small part of your lives, even if it might have been for just a few hours each week. And I want to thank you for allowing me to tell you a story ... a story that I never got tired of ... a story that could be told 10,000 times ... a story that could have a different ending each time it was told."*

**—Excerpt from Gordon Solie's final message to his fans, written just days before his death from cancer in July and read at his funeral**

*"I tried to show wrestlers as human beings and treat them with respect. Apparently, that is something of no interest to Mr. McMahon."*

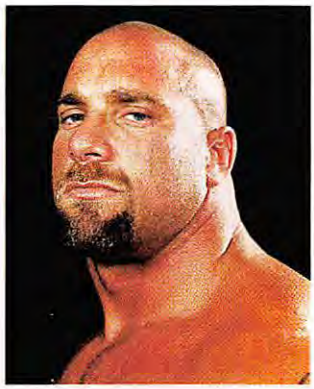
**—Barry Blaustein, director of *Beyond The Mat*, on Vince McMahon's refusal to allow ads for the movie to run during WWF programming**

*"Imagine you're driving down a highway at 85 miles per hour, you come up over the top of a hill, and there's nothing but ice. You try to hit the brakes and you're totally out of control. You're not wondering how that happened. You're just trying to keep from killing yourself."*

**—Eric Bischoff, on WCW's struggles prior to his dismissal as company president, "Press Conference," *PWI*, September 2000**

*"I have absolutely no time to answer your questions right now. I'm far too busy trying to purchase WCW."*

**—Paul Heyman, when asked about rumors that FX was interested in airing ECW programming, *Pro Wrestling Torch***

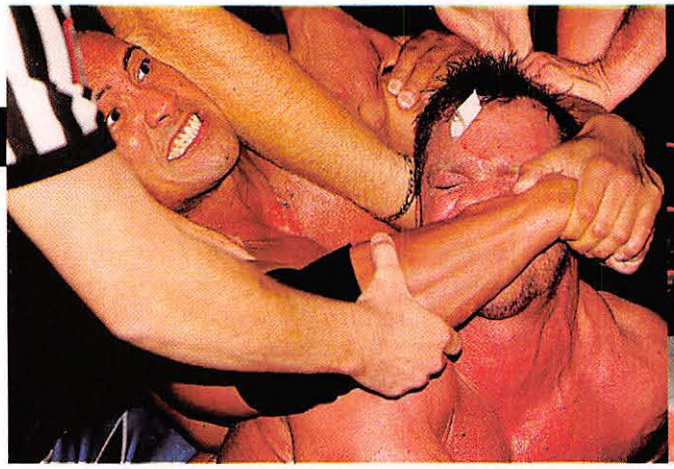


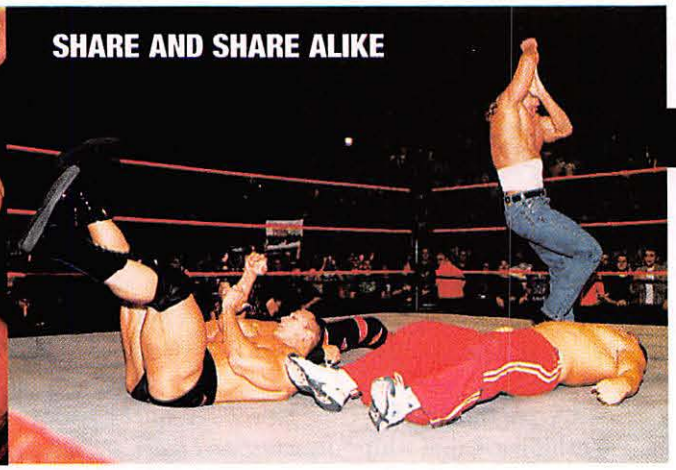
*"I'll throw out a challenge to him to meet me in my backyard, and I'll give him the damn address. I'll even send a car for him."*

**—Bill Goldberg, responding to Triple-H's criticism of him, scoopswrestling.com**

*"I hope that my fans who have kept the faith, believing in me, may in some small way take some lesson from me that will help them in their lifetime. I will never forget how touched I was in Rochester, New York, in one of my last matches, when a bunch of diehard fans held up a sign that read: Parking $10, Program $5, Ticket $35, watching Bret Hitman Hart wrestle—priceless."*

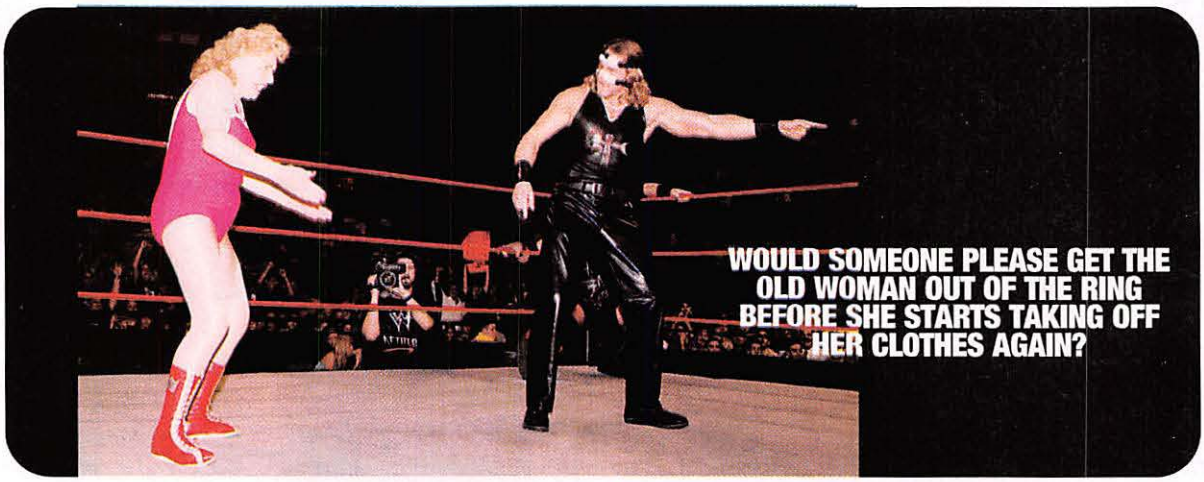
**—Bret Hart, announcing his retirement, October 27 *Calgary Sun* column**





## SHARE AND SHARE ALIKE

You can't actually trademark a finishing move, right? The Rock initially added the Crippler crossface to his repertoire as a shot at Chris Benoit. After some success, The Rock began to use the crossface as a regular feature of his attack. Perhaps that's why he doesn't seem to mind that Triple-H is shamelessly stealing his people's elbow.



WOULD SOMEONE PLEASE GET THE OLD WOMAN OUT OF THE RING BEFORE SHE STARTS TAKING OFF HER CLOTHES AGAIN?

## ARE YOU GUYS IN THE MARKET FOR A FORMER WCW WORLD CHAMPION?

Maybe the wrestling world would have been better off if actor/AT&T pitchman David Arquette had satisfied his desire to wrestle in the Insane Clown Posse's Juggalo Championship Wrestling and Juggalomaniac Vampiro got a run with the WCW belt. Instead, Mr. Courteney Cox managed to win the WCW World title—once the most coveted title in wrestling—after pinning Eric Bischoff in a tag match. And to show his appreciation to "friend" Dallas Page, Arquette ended up betraying Page just days later. But what business did Arquette ever have being in the ring to begin with? Kind of makes you wonder which organization is really run by clowns, JCW or WCW ...

## SEE WHAT DIFFERENCE A STAPLE IN THE NAVEL CAN MAKE?

Jerry Lawler was all smiles as he showed off one of his many copies of Chyna's *Playboy* pictorial to co-host Michael Cole, but he seemed less than thrilled when "The Ninth Wonder Of The World" offered him an up-close-and-personal view of her body. Maybe "The King" doesn't share Billy Gunn's appreciation of fine behinds. Lawler has always been more of a "puppy" man, anyway.

## UM, WHEN YOU FINISH WITH THAT OLD GUY, CAN I GO NEXT?

The Misfits In Action gathered round to appreciate Major Gunns' form as she gave mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to Gen. Rection's "Pops." We don't really know what happened to Pops, but he was seen grinning from ear-to-ear later in the evening. As for Major Gunns, she made it through her forced apprenticeship with Team Canada to joyfully reunite with the MIA ... only to pull a Benedict Arnold and rejoin Team Canada. Even "Mean" Gene was repulsed!

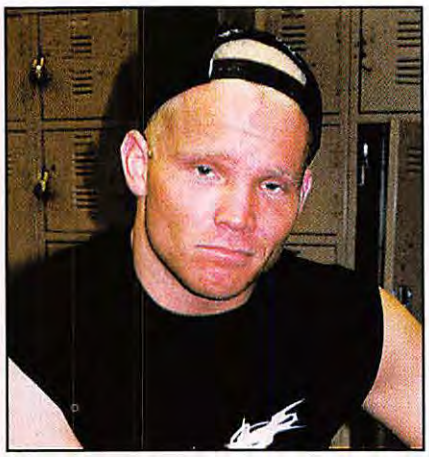
## THE TWO FACES OF TAZZ: MR. FTW AND MR. COMEDIAN

When Tazz announced he had signed with the WWF, many ECW observers openly wondered whether the ultra-serious suplex specialist could adapt to the WWF's style. Tazz picked up a big win at his Royal Rumble debut by handing Kurt Angle his first loss, but "The Human Wrecking Machine" got bogged down in the federation's loaded hardcore division, though he did regain the ECW title and challenge then-WWF champ Triple-H in a rare interpromotional match. It wasn't until Tazz picked a fight with Jerry Lawler and Jim Ross (and tapped into his less serious side) that his WWF stock rose and he was named the co-host of *Sunday Night Heat* on MTV.

# NUMBERS 2000

**0.6** is the Nielsen rating number of the last *ECW On TNN* broadcast. The October 6 program featured the following matches: Nova vs. Bilvis Wesley, Kid Kash vs. E.Z. Money, and Cyrus vs. Joel Gertner.

**1** is the number of times that *Ready To Rumble* star David Arquette won the WCW World heavyweight title. Arquette pinned Eric Bischoff on April 25 in Syracuse, New York, in a tag team match in which the person who gained the pinfall would win the World title. Also involved in the match were "Diamond" Dallas Page and Jeff Jarrett.



**2** is the number of men Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley managed to the WWF World heavyweight title—Triple-H and Kurt Angle.

**2** is also the number of shows that ECW held between the November to Remember and Massacre on 34th Street pay-per-views.

**5.5** is the Nielsen rating number of the first *Raw Is War* broadcast on TNN. The September 25 program featured the return of "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin and a main event of then-WWF champion The Rock defending against Chris Benoit.

**6** is the position at the box office at which *Ready To Rumble* opened after its first weekend in theaters. The movie, a fictional tale of two wrestling fans, heavily featured WCW.

**6** is also the number of times a WCW title was simply awarded to a wrestler by either another wrestler or an executive as of press time.

**11** is the number of times Crash Holly captured the WWF hardcore title as of press time. His longest reign as hardcore champ was 22 days; his shortest was less than 10 minutes.

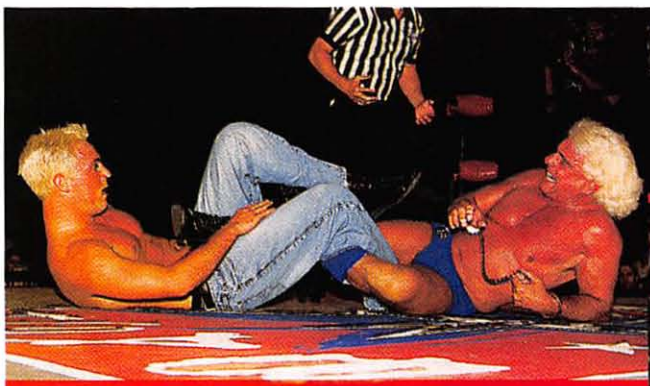
**18** is the number of times the WCW World heavyweight title had changed hands as of press time. Since January, Jeff Jarrett held the title four times, Booker T and Sid Vicious held the title three times each, Kevin Nash and Ric Flair held the title twice each, and Chris Benoit, "Diamond" Dallas Page, David Arquette, and Vince Russo held the title once each.

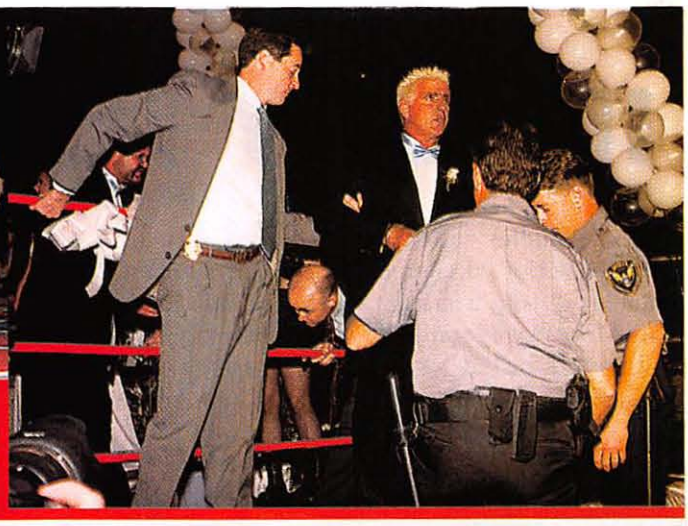
**190,000** is the approximate number of viewers in Britain that bought WrestleMania 2000. The April 2 pay-per-view, which aired at 1 a.m. on a Monday in Great Britain, featured a four-way main event between The Rock, Triple-H, The Big Show, and Mick Foley.

**10,000,000** dollars is what Peter Goldschmidt sought from WCW fan Robert Catell in a lawsuit filed this fall. Goldschmidt sought $5-million in compensation for allegedly libelous actions stemming from an incident in which Catell held up a sign during the September 25 *Nitro* that read, "P. GOLDSCHMIDT STEALS FROM SAKS." Goldschmidt also sought $5-million in punitive damages. No settlement had been reached as of press time.

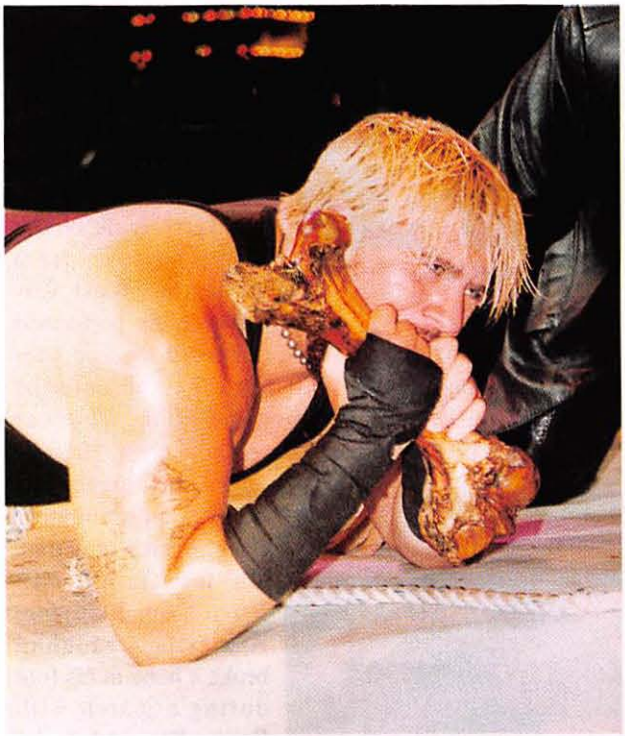
**18,000,000** dollars is the reported amount of money the WWF paid the Hart family to settle the Owen Hart wrongful death lawsuit out of court. Hart fell to his death on May 23, 1999, at the WWF's Over the Edge pay-per-view at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Missouri, while attempting to rappel down from the building's rafters.

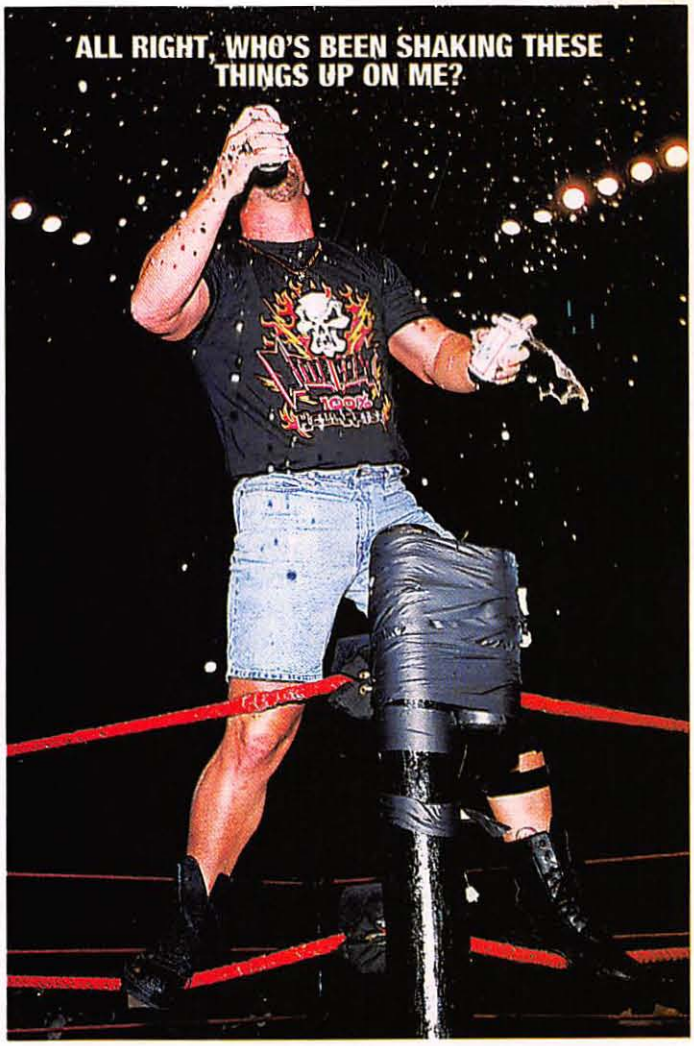
**30,000,000** dollars is the amount that NBC invested in the WWF to finalize an agreement that includes TV rights for Saturday night XFL games.





IT'S BAD ENOUGH WHEN YOU TRY TO BREAK YOUR DAD'S LEGS, BUT HAVING THE COPS KICK HIM OUT OF YOUR WEDDING? WELL, THAT'S JUST *RUDE!*





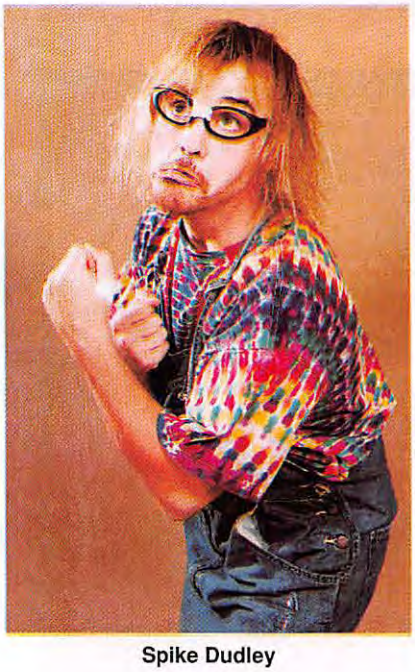
ALL RIGHT, WHO'S BEEN SHAKING THESE THINGS UP ON ME?

## HEY, THERE'S A GREAT IDEA FOR A GIMMICK! AND MAYBE I CAN BE AN ELVIS IMPERSONATOR OR A GARBAGE MAN!

Okay, Moondog Wenzel doesn't get points for originality, but he did have a decent year on the independent circuit. Still, it'll probably be a lot of dog years before we can expect to see a full-blown Moondog revival in the WWF (though if The Conquistadors can come back, who knows!)

# INJURY REPORT 2000

•**Spike Dudley** suffered a torn posterior collateral ligament during a match with Mike Awesome on February 28 in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. He missed approximately 10 months of action.



Spike Dudley

•**Eddie Guerrero** dislocated his elbow while executing a frog splash during a tag team match with partner Perry Saturn against then-WWF World tag team champs Road Dogg and Billy Gunn on the February 1 *Smackdown* from Detroit. It was his first match in the federation since jumping from WCW. He missed approximately eight weeks of action.

•**Billy Gunn** tore his rotator cuff during a match with Buh Buh Ray Dudley on the February 22 *Smackdown* from Nashville, Tennessee. Gunn later underwent surgery and missed approximately eight months of action.

•**Scott Hall** suffered a bruised spine in a three-way match also involving Jeff Jarrett and Sid Vicious on February 20 at the SuperBrawl 2000 pay-per-view in San Francisco, as the result of the cumulative effects of a Jarrett guitar shot to the head and a Vicious power bomb. Hall was reportedly out for several months with the injury, but even after he was healthy enough to return to the ring, WCW opted to keep him on the sidelines and eventually fired him. He made his ECW debut in November.

•**Hunter Hearst Helmsley** suffered injuries to his lower back and hip bone when Kane used a backbreaker on him during a November 5 match in San Antonio, Texas. He missed approximately two weeks.

Scott Hall

•**Bob Holly** suffered a broken arm during a match with Kurt Angle on the June 27 *Smackdown* from Hartford, Connecticut. He missed approximately 4½ months of action.

Triple-H vs. Kane

•**Jeff Jarrett** sustained a severe concussion on the January 10 *Nitro* from Columbus, Ohio, when Jimmy Snuka executed his "Superfly" splash from the top of a steel cage on him. He missed three weeks of action.

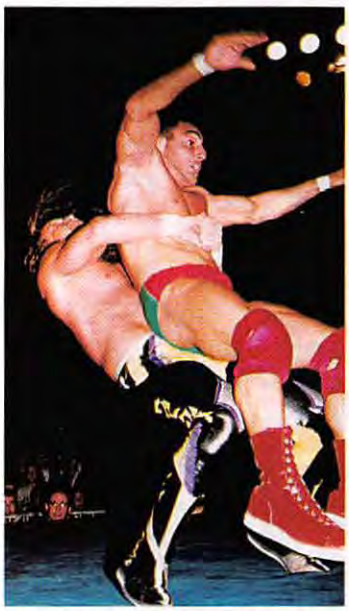
•**Johnny the Bull** suffered a broken pelvis and a ruptured bladder during a hardcore match with Terry Funk on the July 3 *Nitro* from Charleston, West Virginia. Johnny performed a springboard legdrop over the top rope and onto the floor and Funk, who was covered by a chair. He later underwent surgery and missed approximately three months of action. On the October 13 *Nitro* from Brisbane, Australia, Johnny broke a bone in his foot during a match with Kwee-Wee when he landed a monkey flip wrong. He had not yet returned to action as of press time.

•**Kristi Kiss** broke her neck when Mafia and Monsta Mack power-bombed her through a table and onto the floor on April

7 in Bayonne, New Jersey. She wore a neck brace for a month and was cleared to return soon after.

•**Konnan** tore his triceps during an eight-man tag match between MIA and The Filthy Animals on the May 23 *Thunder* from Saginaw, Michigan, when he caught Juventud Guerrera, who was thrown over the top rope and to the outside by Major Stash (Van Hammer). He later underwent surgery and missed approximately three months of action.

•**Jerry Lynn** fractured his ankle in five places during a January 14 match with Little Guido Maritato in Danbury, Connecticut. He missed approximately 3½ months of action.



Lynn suplexing Guido

•**Taka Michinoku** separated his shoulder during the January 23 Royal Rumble battle royal in New York's Madison Square Garden. He missed approximately seven weeks of action.

•**Kevin Nash** had surgery to have a plate put into his ankle on January 31 after slipping on a patch of black ice. He missed approximately 10 weeks of action.

•**New Jack** suffered a concussion, bruised sternum, and cracked elbow on March 12 at the Living Dangerously pay-per-view in Danbury, Connecticut, after falling off a 13-foot scaffold and through a table and having his opponent, Vic Grimes, who also fell off the scaffold, land on top of him. He missed approximately four weeks of action.

•**"Diamond" Dallas Page** suffered partially ruptured L-4 and L-5 disks in a match against Chris Kanyon on February 3 in Charleston, South Carolina. He missed approximately nine weeks of action.

•**The Sinister Minister** lost a piece of his left index finger and suffered tendon and nerve damage to several other fingers after a pipe-like device exploded in his grip at the November to Remember pay-per-view on November 5. As of press time, he had not returned.

•**Tazz** tore his biceps while brawling with Perry Saturn on the May 1 *Raw Is War* from Baltimore, Maryland. He missed approximately two months of action.

•**Tori** separated her shoulder after being power-

The Sinister Minister

bombed through a table by Buh Buh Ray Dudley on June 25 at the King of the Ring pay-per-view in Boston, Massachusetts. As of press time, she had not yet returned to competition.

•**Vader** suffered a broken left elbow and wrist, jaw, and nose during a match with Mitsuharu Misawa on April 7 in Matsumoto, Japan. Vader later underwent surgery and missed approximately seven months of action.

Tori

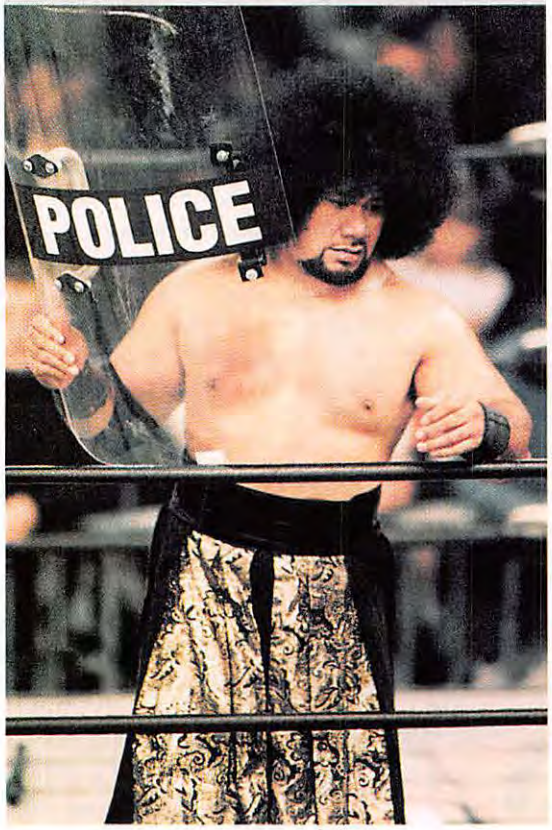
•**Rob Van Dam** fractured his left ankle while executing a baseball slide during a defense of his ECW TV title against Rhino on January 29 in Orlando, Florida. Van Dam won the match, but was later forced to vacate the title. He missed approximately 3½ months of action.

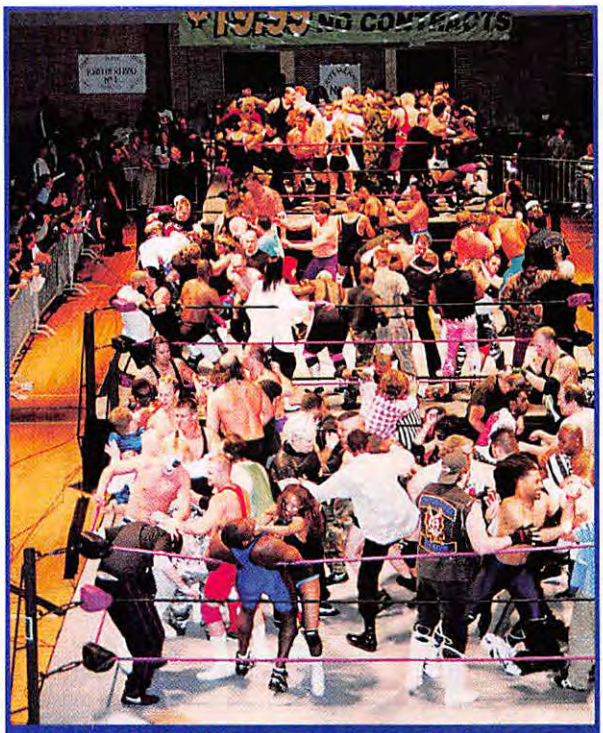
*[Note: Brad Armstrong (knee), Big Show (torn meniscus), Bam Bam Bigelow (burns), Booker T (back), Big Bossman (knee), Chris Candido (broken wrist), Simon Diamond (back), Tommy Dreamer (shoulder), Ric Flair (torn rotator cuff), Gangrel (separated shoulder), The Goodfather (ankle), Grandmaster Sexay (knee), Chris Hamrick (shoulder), Shane Helms (broken nose), Mark Henry (elbow), Evan Karagias (ankle), Kenta Kobashi (knee), Steven Richards (ankle), Rikishi (ankle), Vince Russo (concussion), Kenzo Suzuki (broken ribs), Test (back), Magnum Tokyo (broken arm), The Undertaker (torn pectoral muscle), Val Venis (neck), Sid Vicious (shoulder), and Viscera (separated shoulder) all missed significant time in the ring in 2000, but their injuries were of a cumulative nature, and no specific date of when they occurred can be pinpointed.]*

## VIOLENCE CUBED

The three-tiered cage used at Slamboree was originally designed for the movie *Ready To Rumble,* but it was only a matter of time before it made its way to WCW rings. Here, Dallas Page and Jeff Jarrett battle it out some 20 feet above the canvas while David Arquette looks on. Arquette, Page, and Jarrett got a great view of the cage as they battled at Slamboree, but they had to be thankful they didn't get the view Chris Kanyon got—that is, plummeting from the steel structure to the arena floor below courtesy of Mike Awesome.

## CAVEAT TO POLICE ORDINANCE 2.3: RULES ON APPROPRIATE HAIR LENGTH AND STYLE ARE NULL AND VOID IF THE OFFENDING OFFICER IS A MASTER OF THE TONGAN DEATH GRIP

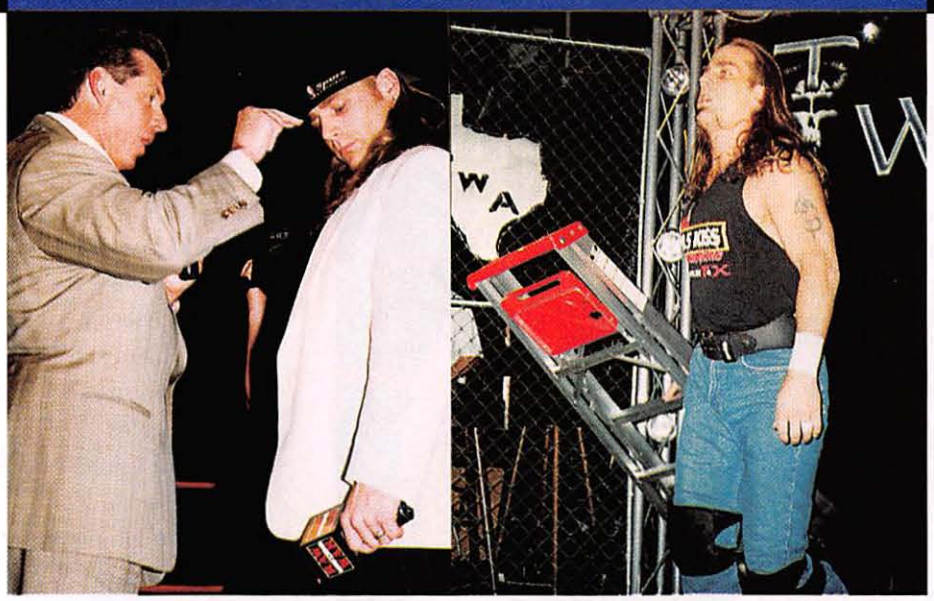


## SPECIAL BONUS: THE FIRST 80 PEOPLE THROUGH THE DOOR GET TO JOIN THE MAIN EVENT!

Next time WCW holds a three-ring battle royal, don't believe the hype that a 60-man battle royal is the biggest there is. Windy City Pro Wrestling upped the ante with this 120-man (and woman) spectacular in Hammond, Indiana, in May. Who would have thought Windy City had 120 wrestlers on its roster? As for who won … we think it was the guy who was going to file an "Arena Report."

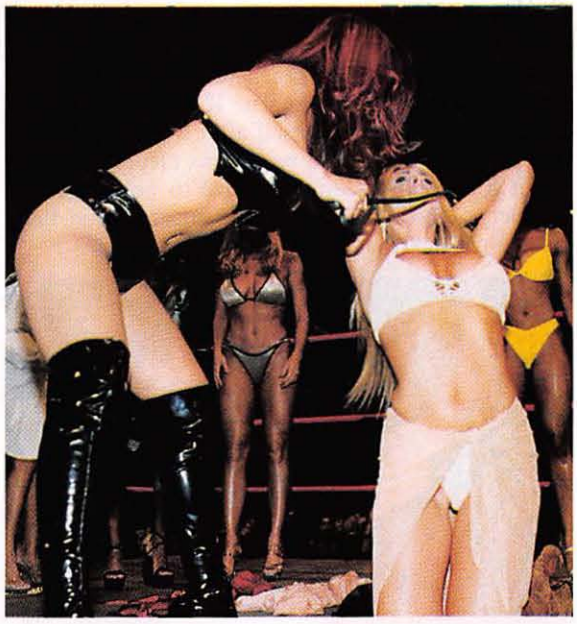
## HBK TAKES A FINAL BOW

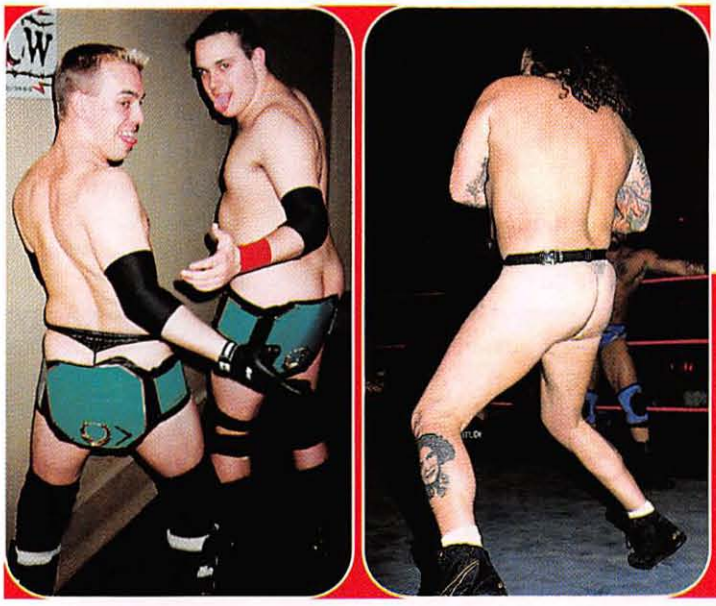


It was a bittersweet year for Shawn Michaels. "The Heartbreak Kid" had all he could stand from Vince McMahon as the WWF commissioner when health concerns and commitments to his family convinced him to resign his post. But Michaels couldn't shake the wrestling bug that easily. Michaels returned to the ring for a final retirement match against Venom under the auspices of the Texas Wrestling Alliance, the promotion he runs, and won the heavyweight title (he immediately gave it up). Michaels maintains that a comeback remains out of the question and is currently training students at the Shawn Michaels Wrestling Academy in San Antonio.

## WE GOT OUR ANSWER TO YOUR LONG OPENING INTERVIEW SEGMENT!

It was one of wrestling's biggest moments of 2000. The WWF's *Raw Is War* moved from its long-time home on the USA Network to the network formerly known as The Nashville Network on September 25. And how did WCW capitalize on its rival's change of stations? That's right, an exceedingly awkward bikini contest starting right at 9 p.m. Eastern. No one knows why Pamela Paulshock was wearing a fur coat in the ring when all the contest participants were wearing next to nothing. And no one knows why Howard Stern's collection of sideshow freaks was allowed to declare the non-bikini-clad Paulshock the winner. Thank goodness Leia Meow made things a *little* interesting with a dominatrix-style catfight.



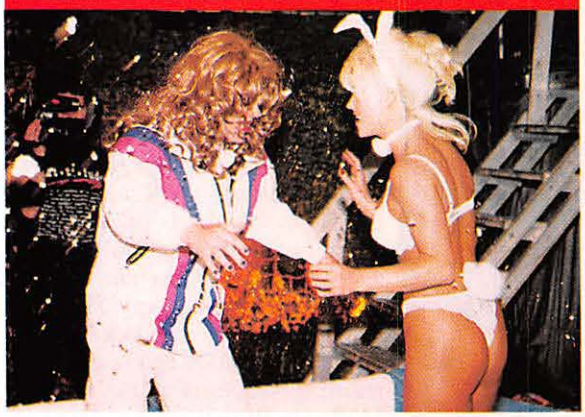


## SEX MAY SELL, BUT EVEN THAT HAS ITS LIMITS

**It appears Northern Championship Wrestling tag champions Deadly Venumm took a cue from Naked Guy Midian. Let's just be thankful for two things: one, that Guy Williams and Cobra at least have title belts to cover their hindquarters, and two, that all three had enough decency to turn their backs to the camera for this shot.**

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## HEY, IF CHYNA CAN WRESTLE MEN, WHY CAN'T I WRESTLE WOMEN? THIS IS SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION!



Harvey Wippleman made his foray into the women's division with his debut as the mysterious Hervena. The former manager of Bertha Faye (and Sid Justice for what it's worth) managed to beat The Kat to win the WWF women's title in a lumberjill snow bunny match. Unlike The Kat, Hervena resisted the urge to expose himself after winning the title. Wippleman's brief title reign was clearly the low point for the division. It's hard to believe Lita, Jacquelyn, and Ivory would later square off in such intense physical battles for that same title.

## WE KNOW SHE'S FIGHTING ON BEHALF OF THE RTC AND ALL, BUT WE HAVE TO ADMIT IT–IVORY STILL LOOKS KINDA SEXY (IN A LILITH CRANE KIND OF WAY)

## WE COULD PROBABLY WRITE SOMETHING CLEVER HERE, BUT CHANCES ARE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO READ IT

Stacy Keibler, a.k.a. Miss Hancock, didn't quite get a grasp on the point of an evening gown match. See, you're supposed to strip *your opponent* of her dress and embarrass her. Instead, Stacy voluntarily stripped down on her own, thus losing her match to Daffney. One thing's for sure—the fans were definitely the real winners of this match. (Is anybody even *reading* this?!)

## IN MEMORIAM

Gary Albright
Steve Allen
George Becker
Jaime Cardiche
Liz Chase
Al Costello
Rick Davidson
Chris Duffy
Bobby Duncum Jr.
Lee Fields
Masakazu Fukuda
Irish Jackie
Benjamin Jarrells
Billy Joyce
El Jurassico
Klondike Bill
George Kopecky
Mike Marcello
El Marquez
Mark Mendlan
Multifacetico
Tony Nash
Bill Needham
Leo Nomellini
Tony Parisi
Frank Podbielski
Tom Renesto
Joe Schoenberger
Mitch Snow
Gordon Solie
Eddie Sullivan
Prof. Toru Tanaka
Jumbo Tsuruta
Olivia Walker
Yokozuna

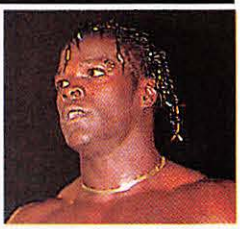
## 2001 SHOULD BE THEIR YEAR

C.W. Anderson

Scoot Andrews

Nick Dinsmore

The Prototype



K-Kwik

# PWI ACHIEVEMENT 2000

JUST HOW MUCH has wrestling changed in the past year? Hulk Hogan, last year's Inspirational Wrestler of the Year, was publicly drummed out of the business (at least temporarily), the most visible member of the McMahon family is Triple-H's wife, Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley, and Kurt Angle, a guy whose WWF debut took place late last year, was the WWF World heavyweight champion as we all celebrated Thanksgiving.

Not only that, but a pro wrestler (The Rock) opened the Wednesday night session of the Republican National Convention, and a former Intercontinental champion (Chyna) posed in Playboy.

Need even more proof that 2000 was one of the most bizarre years in wrestling history? David Arquette, a B-grade actor at best, won the WCW World title, WCW creative heads Eric Bischoff and Vince Russo decided to vacate all titles and basically relaunch WCW back in April, and the fans got to see a whole lot more of Mae Young than they ever wanted to see.

Yes, 2000 was an odd year, but it was also pretty darn exciting.

This year featured one of the best rookie crops in recent memory, but one member of the class of 2000 really stood out: Kurt Angle. Fresh off his WWF title win at No Mercy and first pay-per-view defense at Survivor Series, Angle steamrolled the competition for a landslide victory in Rookie of the Year balloting.

Perhaps Booker T's story was the most heartwarming of 2000. While his stint as G.I. Bro with the Misfits In Action was forgettable, the former member of Harlem Heat became a great WCW World champion. Booker is a reminder that hard work does pay off in the end, which is why he was voted the Inspirational Wrestler of the Year.

The voting for Most Improved Wrestler of the Year took a wild turn after November To Remember. At the pay-per-view, Steve Corino put aside the comedy shtick by upsetting Justin Credible, The Sandman, and Jerry Lynn for the ECW World title in a "Double Jeopardy" match. That victory not only garnered him the ECW World title, it also created a last-second push that made Corino this year's Most Improved Wrestler of the Year.

Could anyone see The Sultan headlining a WWF pay-per-view? How about Headshrinker Fatu? In 2000, Rikishi used a sizable weight gain to recreate himself. And while the stink face and postmatch boogies with Too Cool may have entertained fans, Rikishi's awesome seated piledriver, Samoan drop, and array of sidekicks made him one of the most feared forces in the WWF. His admission that he ran down Steve Austin at the 1999 Survivor Series showed the world how bloodthirsty he can be. His return from indy obscurity to WWF main events made Rikishi this year's Comeback of the Year award winner.

With so few managers left in wrestling and so many stunning women standing around ringside, it just made sense to replace the Manager of the Year award with the Woman of the Year award. Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley edged out Lita, though it was Lita who put an end to Steph's WWF women's championship reign.

**The waiting is over. All your votes have been counted. On the following pages, we present your choices for the PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED Achievement 2000 Awards!**

Stephanie was also the central figure in this year's Feud of the Year between Kurt Angle and Triple-H. Stephanie and Hunter's marital woes were exacerbated by her decision to serve as Angle's business associate, causing the bad blood that existed between Angle and Triple-H to only get more viscous.

Could anyone other than The Rock be voted Most Popular Wrestler of the Year? The Rock posted back-to-back wins in this category in 1999 and 2000. Conversely, a former Olympic hero was singled out as Most Hated Wrestler of the Year. Kurt Angle had an insult for every fan at every arena and managed to find a way to get under the skin of everyone who crossed his path (except for Edge and Christian).

For the first time in *PWI* Achievement Award history, the Match of the Year wasn't a traditional one-on-one or tag team match. Instead, it was WrestleMania's three-way ladder match between The Dudley Boyz, The Hardy Boyz, and Edge and Christian. That contest featured Jeff's insane swanton off a 25-foot ladder and through a table on the arena floor, as well as a modified scaffold ending where Edge and Christian sent Matt flailing off a ladder-supported table and through a second table below.

Despite losing that match, the Hardys captured enough votes to be named Tag Team of the Year. If there was an award for Most Popular Tag Team of the Year, Matt and Jeff probably would have won that as well.

Game over. The Rock secured more votes than Triple-H and was voted Wrestler of the Year for 2000. Rock won a pair of WWF titles and showed grit and determination in his hellacious battles with HHH, Rikishi, and Chris Benoit.

Finally, this year's Editors' Award goes to "Classy" Freddie Blassie. Despite his history as an annoying "Hollywood Fashion Plate" and constant references to "pencil-necked geeks," Blassie was always one of wrestling's most entertaining personalities, whether as a wrestler or manager.

What you hold in your hands is a testament to one of the most memorable years in wrestling history. Take the time to sit back and recall some of the great—and not so great—wrestling moments of the first year of the 21st century.

PWI ACHIEVEMENT 2000

# ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

THE OLYMPIC HERO posted one of the greatest rookie years in pro wrestling history, and more than 42,000 fans spoke out to name him Rookie of the Year in the year's biggest landslide win.

Angle began his rookie year gold rush by beating Val Venis to win the European title on February 8. Before he was able to settle into a series of title defenses, Angle signed to face Chris Jericho for the Intercontinental title at No Way Out (February 27). By the time that show was over, Angle had become the new "Eurocontinental" (his term) champion.

The obnoxious Olympian may have lost both belts in a three-way match with Chris Benoit and Chris Jericho at WrestleMania, but he was never pinned or forced to submit. Angle rebounded from those potentially devastating losses by winning the King of the Ring tournament, scoring a pinfall win over Rikishi in the finals.

But Angle's biggest win since the Olympics came at No Mercy. Despite his amateur credentials, Angle was considered an underdog against The Rock—though everything changed when Rikishi got involved in the match. When that war had ended, Angle had scored a title trifecta in his rookie year.

## KURT ANGLE
### 42,788 votes

"It's hard to believe that Angle is just entering his second year in the WWF," wrote Jesse Arrington of Philadelphia. "Maybe it's his Olympic experience, but he tends to avoid the typical rookie mistakes. He's a natural, and he'll probably be a part of the title picture for a long time to come."

"I'd like to thank your readers for this award, which I have to say I deserve completely," Angle said. "No one in wrestling history has ever had a year like mine—let alone a rookie year like the one I had. And don't worry about your Olympic hero going into a sophomore slump. Instead, think of 2000 as the year where greatness broke through and enriched every one of your unfulfilled lives."

Despite his pomposity, Angle's accomplishments this year were undeniable. This year's field of rookies was particularly strong, and first runner-up Lita is much more popular than Angle. Voters had to put aside their prejudices and vote against their hearts. This is the first time in *PWI* Achievement Award history that a Rookie of the Year winner has also been honored as Most Hated Wrestler of the Year. Check the records—it's true.

# RUNNERS-UP

1

## LITA
18,533 votes

**First runner-up:** Who would have thought the former Miss Congeniality was capable of executing such incredible moonsaults and huracanranas? Lita has become a very hot property in the WWF, due in equal parts to her athleticism, her enthusiasm, her flaming red hair, and her habit of wearing pants about three sizes too big. She has become the centerpiece of the WWF women's division.

2

Photo Courtesy of WCW Magazine

## MARK JINDRAK & SEAN O'HAIRE
9,113 votes

**Second runner-up:** These two Natural Born Thrillers have come a long way in a short period of time. O'Haire's Sean-ton bomb gets better each week, and Jindrak's springboard clothesline off the ropes has even floored Kevin Nash. Jindrak and O'Haire are probably the best prospects in Mike Sanders' clique, and they're improving rapidly. Might they be our Tag Team of the Year for 2001?

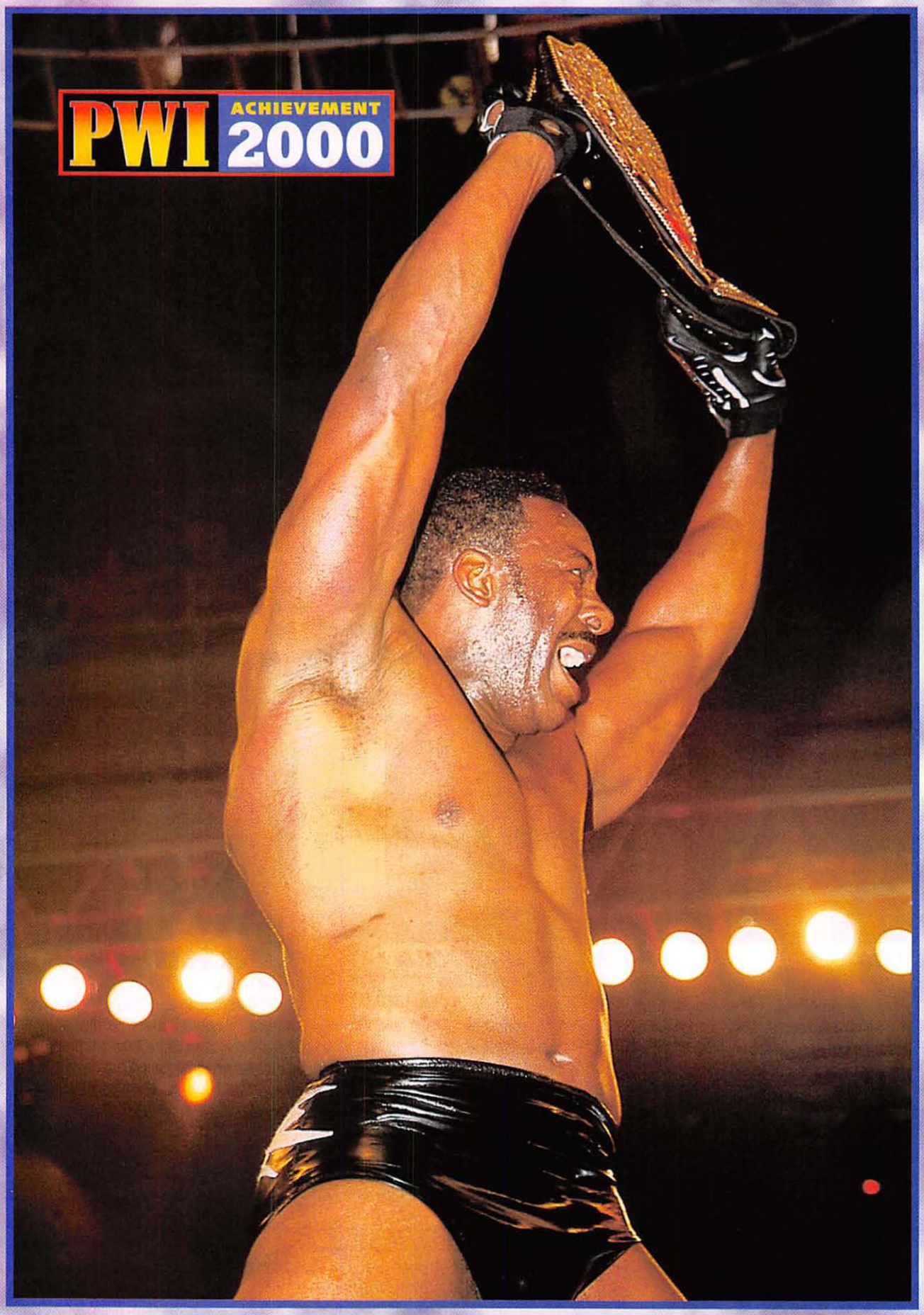
3

## CHUCK PALUMBO
5,553 votes

**Third runner-up:** That's right, The Natural Born Thrillers strike again! Palumbo looked more than a little overmatched when he called out Lex Luger, but Palumbo and his Lex flexor did some damage during the summer and fall. Palumbo also earned respect by powering The Perfect Event to the WCW World tag team title and providing the muscle behind Shawn Stasiak's ever-running mouth.

## VOTES FOR OTHERS (9,043)

Some of the other top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Tank Abbott, Daffney, Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley, Prodigy, and Trish Stratus.


PWI
ACHIEVEMENT
2000

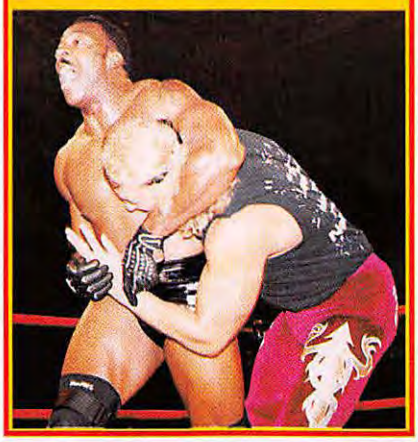
# INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

WHEN BOOKER T finally got his chance to shine as a singles wrestler, the tag team specialist became the most dominant WCW World champion since Bill Goldberg.

Without his brother and Harlem Heat partner, Stevie Ray, at his side, Booker struggled to establish his own identity in the early part of the year. Finding kindred spirits in the Misfits In Action, Booker tried to re-establish himself by adopting the persona of G.I. Bro, a character he had wrestled as in the beginning of his career. Many considered the fatigue-wearing gimmick silly, but it helped Booker regain confidence that he had seemingly lost.

Booker's seven years of hard work and dedication to WCW were finally recognized at Bash at the Beach, when Vince Russo sent Hulk Hogan home and ordered Jeff Jarrett to defend the WCW title against Booker T in an impromptu match. It was Booker's first pay-per-view main event, and he seized the opportunity by beating Jarrett to become the WCW World champion.

## BOOKER T
**20,369 votes**



"Booker is a true inspiration, because he came back from an ugly feud with his brother and the politics of WCW to become the top man in WCW," said Mark Raiff of Buffalo, New York. "He's been an honorable World champion, and it's obvious he respects the belt around his waist."

Booker amassed wins over Jarrett, Sting, Lance Storm, Scott Steiner, and Mike Awesome in defense of the belt, but his biggest test came as a challenger for the title against Kevin Nash in a steel cage match at Fall Brawl. Booker gave up nine inches and more than 100 pounds against "Big Sexy," but he prevailed in the end.

"I've been around long enough to know that it ain't the size of the dog in the fight—it's the size of the fight in the dog," said Booker. "After Bash at the Beach, everyone was talkin' about what went down between Russo and Hogan. What they should have been talkin' about was the start of a new era in WCW, an era with Booker T as the company's World champion."

It's a difficult transition for a tag team wrestler to break through to the World title picture. It's even harder to transcend company politics and gang warfare to get to the top. But to do that and then turn away challenge after challenge? That takes a very special athlete. Booker T proved he was more than up to the task.

# RUNNERS-UP

1

## MICK FOLEY
18,798 votes

**First runner-up:** The world knew all about Mick Foley's dreams. In 1998 and 1999, he realized his goal of winning the WWF title; he did it three separate times. And in 2000, he competed in the main event of a WrestleMania. Yes, Mick was quickly eliminated, but Mrs. Foley's little boy left the ring for the last time as a man who did everything he set out to do, even when no one believed he could. Fans responded with a standing ovation.

2

## CRASH HOLLY
17,101 votes

**Second runner-up:** Crash managed to go from being the Elroy Jetson of the WWF to the "Houdini Of Hardcore." His 24/7 defenses of the hardcore title showed a tremendous amounts of guts, and they also resulted in some of the wildest, most memorable matches (scheduled and impromptu) of the year. Crash won plenty of respect during his runs as hardcore champ, and twice in November came oh-so-close to upsetting Kurt Angle to win the WWF title.

3

## CHYNA
15,951 votes

**Third runner-up:** Chyna survived a brutal war with Chris Jericho and managed to co-exist with him as co-Intercontinental champ for a while. She was also betrayed by her fiance, Eddie Guerrero, but remained resilient enough to be competitive for Guerrero's Intercontinental title. "The Ninth Wonder Of The World" has dominated him in the ring ever since. And her appearance in *Playboy* broke the mold for that magazine.

### VOTES FOR OTHERS (7,342)

Some of the other top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Bam Bam Bigelow, The Blue Boy, Tommy Dreamer, Hacksaw Duggan, Ric Flair, Jeff Hardy, Lita, and Genichiro Tenryu.

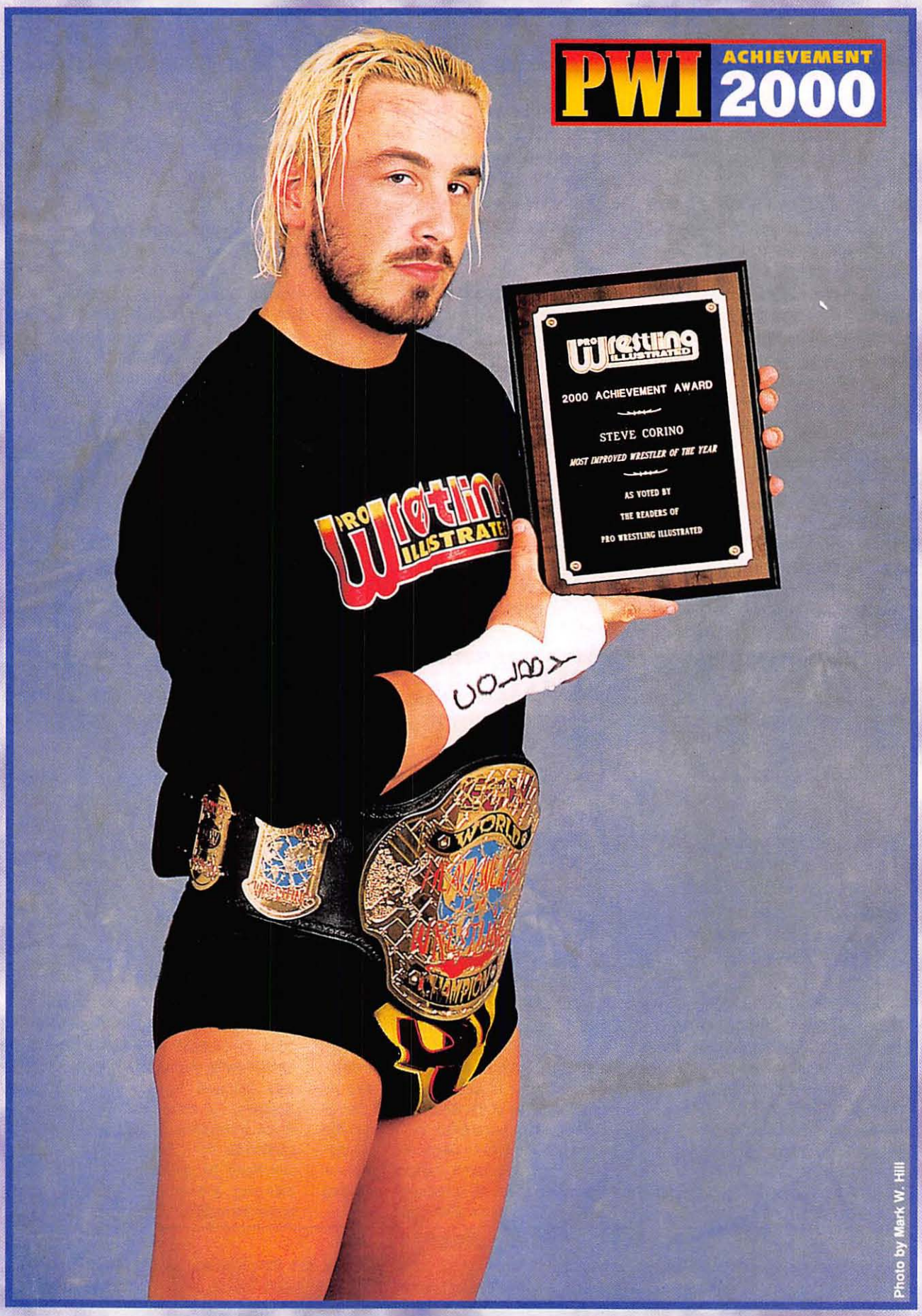



Photo by Mark W. Hill

# MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

## STEVE CORINO
### 22,234 votes

NOVEMBER TO REMEMBER was more than simply the pay-per-view at which "The King Of Old School" Steve Corino upset Jerry Lynn, Justin Credible, and The Sandman in a "Double Jeopardy" match to win the ECW World title. It also marked the turning point in the voting for this year's Most Improved Wrestler achievement award.

Going into the PPV, Justin Credible led all vote-getters by a very slim margin. It made sense; Credible had become a strong and deserving champion earlier in the year and had finally made people forget about his old Aldo Montoya persona. But when Corino walked out of Villa Park, Illinois, as the new ECW champ, wrestling fans spoke loud and clear: Steve Corino deserves this award more than anyone else.

It wasn't all that long ago that Corino was the laughingstock of ECW. He lost several one-on-one matches to Francine (with generous interference from Tommy Dreamer, of course) and rambled on night after night, eschewing "hardcore garbage" wrestling in the promotion that made extreme a part of every fan's vocabulary. That was before Dusty Rhodes taught him that old school wrestling can be just as hazardous to your health as anything ECW has to offer.

"There came a point where I felt the need to stand up for myself and take things seriously," Corino said. "I had made a lot of enemies, and I talked a lot of great smack, but I never got any respect. But once I left The Network and got away from Cyrus, I spilled more blood than anyone else in this company to try to claw my way to the top. And now that I've won the ECW World title, I finally have respect from everybody. And most importantly, I respect myself. If that makes me the Most Improved Wrestler of 2000, then I'm honored with this recognition."

The turning point in Corino's road to respectability came when Cyrus pulled Corino and Scotty Anton from the ECW World tag team title tournament. When Corino complained, Anton viciously turned against his partner. All of a sudden, Corino was hearing cheers—and he took those cheers to heart.

"I remember when Corino came to ECW and refused to use anything but chinlocks and side headlocks against guys like Mahoney," said Jim Conley of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. "He was a complete joke. He was an absolute disgrace."

That was so long ago. And despite the fact that he has reverted to his traditional rulebreaker form, he can now say he won the ECW World title. Old school or extreme, *that's* improvement.

# RUNNERS-UP

1

## LANCE STORM
15,187 votes

**First runner-up:** If we can be serious for a minute, Lance Storm didn't improve as much as he got the chance to showcase the skills he always had in front of a larger audience. Storm seamlessly made the transition from ECW to WCW and collected the U.S., cruiserweight, and hardcore titles in short order. Hey, Storm was even persuasive enough to convince Jim Duggan to turn against the Stars and Stripes!

2

## SCOTTY TOO HOTTY
14,772 votes

**Second runner-up:** Everyone now ... W-O-R-M ... *whoosh, whoosh,* karate chop. It was the most outrageous move since The Rock unveiled the people's elbow, but the worm, a goofy haircut, and some dance moves made Too Cool one of the top teams in the WWF. And just when you were about to criticize Scotty for being style over substance, he goes and cleanly beats Dean Malenko for the light heavyweight title.

3

## JUSTIN CREDIBLE
12,993 votes

**Third runner-up:** Had Justin Credible managed to regain the ECW title at November to Remember, he most likely would have edged out the competition to win this award. Instead, the ECW vote was split two ways, while the WWF/WCW vote was splintered. But this doesn't diminish the fact that he had a great year. He'll probably win a few more ECW titles soon enough. And he'll probably do so soon.

## VOTES FOR OTHERS (22,972)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Big Vito, The Cat, The Dudley Boyz, Hardcore Holly, Chris Jericho, Kid Kash, Jerry Lynn, Rhino, Mike Sanders, and Yoshihiro Tajiri.

PWI
ACHIEVEMENT
2000

# COMEBACK OF THE YEAR

## RIKISHI
**23,388 votes**

RIKISHI WAS AS unlikely a success story as they come. After 14 years in the business, Rikishi finally became an overnight sensation this year, largely due to his habit of sticking his sweaty backside in his opponents' faces. But (no pun intended) there's more to Rikishi than the stink face and the postmatch dances.

Formerly one-half of The Headshrinkers tag team with Samu, Rikishi had forgettable previous singles stints in the WWF as anti-drug crusader "Make A Difference" Fatu and The Sultan. Prior to his makeover as Rikishi late last year, he toiled in near-obscurity in independent promotions. Now, he's a former Intercontinental champion feuding with the two biggest stars in wrestling today, Steve Austin and The Rock. That fact was something voters couldn't overlook.

"I always knew Fatu was a fairly agile big man, but I had no idea he could compete on the same level with Chris Benoit, Steve Austin, and Triple-H," wrote Damon Harrison of Manchester, England. "Rikishi came out of nowhere to become one of the most popular—and then one of the most hated—men in the WWF. That's a comeback if I ever saw one."

"Just look at this year's *'PWI* 500,'" wrote Steve Overbeck of Phoenix. "Rikishi was listed at number 27, and he wasn't listed at all last year. And since outing himself as the man who ran down Steve Austin, I'd say Rikishi has had a bigger impact than anyone else on the WWF this year."

What made Rikishi's turn so hard for fans to take was that he had been one of the most popular and fun-loving wrestlers in the WWF. Early on in the voting period (before admitting he drove the car that struck Austin), Rikishi was contending for a runner-up spot for Most *Popular* Wrestler of the Year. But the days of entertaining the fans and dancing with Too Cool are long over, as Rikishi has shown an ugly side and accused the WWF of racial discrimination and playing favorites. After the big man vowed to end Austin's career and attacked The Rock with a sledgehammer from a moving car, a lot of voters said it was difficult to honor him with any award.

In the end, though, the fact that he had returned from near-oblivion to WWF main events was too big an accomplishment to ignore.

"I'm voting for Rikishi to win Comeback of the Year, but I wish there was a way to vote him right back out of the WWF," wrote Erin Conley of Cambridge, Massachusetts. "I'm confident that The Rock and Steve Austin will send both him and Triple-H into an early retirement."

# RUNNERS-UP

1

## DUSTY RHODES
17,555 votes

**First runner-up:** "The American Dream" is as hardcore as they come. Dusty Rhodes reminded ECW fans of his ultraviolent past when he returned to the ring to carve a few wrinkles in Steve Corino's forehead. Rhodes quickly put a stop to Corino's mockery and won the respect of ECW fans and wrestlers alike. Although a full-time return is unlikely, Rhodes showed he still has some bionic elbows left to throw.

2

## THE UNDERTAKER
16,590 votes

**Second runner-up:** "The Man From The Dark Side" ditched the sorcerer gimmick and reinvented himself as an American bad ass. More importantly, The Undertaker came back from numerous injuries and a nine-month layoff to reassert himself as a top-tier player in the WWF. Undertaker's last ride power bomb may be even more dangerous than his tombstone piledriver—and he'll use it on anyone.

3

## BRYAN CLARK
9,511 votes

**Third runner-up:** Clark spent a lot of time nursing injuries last year, and he made up for it by doing major damage in the WCW tag ranks once he returned. Kronic was dominant in 2000, due largely to Clark's agility and punishing pumphandle slam. Now healthy and with some tag experience under his belt, Clark is ready to embark on a another year of dominance—be it as part of Kronic or on his own.

## VOTES FOR OTHERS (22,753)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Scotty Anton, Bam Bam Bigelow, Booker T, Hacksaw Duggan, Scott Steiner, and Rob Van Dam.

PWI ACHIEVEMENT 2000
WOMEN'S CHAMPION

# WOMAN OF THE YEAR

IT'S HARD TO believe the innocent young woman who was tormented by The Undertaker's Ministry of Darkness in 1999 is the same woman who took center stage and became the most visible (and most hated) member of the McMahon family this year.

Stephanie played her father like a Stradivarius at last year's Armageddon pay-per-view and swerved the world, revealing she and Triple-H had in fact planned their bizarre Las Vegas drive-through wedding. Stephanie stood at her husband's side as Triple-H became arguably the most dominant heel World champion in WWF history. As a member of DX, Steph mastered the art of outside interference and distraction. When Mick Foley ordered her apparent comeuppance by way of a match against then-women's champion Jacquelyn, Stephanie somehow came out of the match with the title around her waist. And though she rarely defended the title (and has never come close to winning a match cleanly), she managed to hold the belt for nearly five months.

Despite her success, many claimed

**STEPHANIE McMAHON-HELMSLEY**
**24,428 votes**

Stephanie had little to do with her *husband's* prosperity. She answered her critics by going against Hunter's wishes and signing on as a "business associate" of Kurt Angle. Within a few weeks, Kurt Angle was the WWF World champion, and Stephanie once again stood in the corner of the top man in the WWF.

"The thing with Stephanie is that she always just seemed to be in the right place at the right time," wrote Craig Schwarz of Niagara Falls, Ontario. "But after a while, you have to realize she's not just getting lucky. Stephanie managed to position herself in the middle of almost every main event throughout the year. She may be a lousy wrestler, but there's no denying she was the most successful woman of 2000."

"Unlike most of the women in wrestling, Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley never allowed herself to be portrayed as a bimbo or resorted to taking off her clothes to get attention," opined Christina Perillo of Haddon Heights, New Jersey. "Even when she was running with Hunter's DeGenerates, Stephanie always came across as a classy and intelligent woman. That's why she got my vote."

Stephanie took her fair share of bumps, including several Rock bottoms and huracanranas. But she pulled herself up each time, dusted herself off and went back to the task at hand—maintaining control of the volatile WWF. And for 24,428 *PWI* readers, that was enough to earn her our first-ever Woman of the Year Award.

## RUNNERS-UP

1

### LITA

22,118 votes

**First runner-up:** If this category was for Woman *Wrestler* of the Year, the fiery redhead would have won in a landslide. Lita captured the fans' attention as Essa Rios' valet by mimicking the Luchadore's moves with marvelous precision. But once she paired with the Hardys, Lita's stock soared. At one point, Lita teamed with The Rock in a *Smackdown* main event—and nearly got a bigger ovation!

2

### CHYNA

19,778 votes

**Second runner-up:** Chyna shattered wrestling's gender barrier by not only winning the I-C title (three times now), but also defending it with honor. After losing the belt the first time, she posed for *Playboy* and became one of the WWF's most sought-after commodities. However, some voters said Chyna allowed herself to be played by Eddie Guerrero. Maybe that's what kept her from winning.

3

### MAJOR GUNNS

11,761 votes

**Third runner-up:** Her critics said she was little more than window dressing. Nearly 12,000 voters couldn't care less. "I don't care if she's waving the American flag or the Canadian flag, as long as she's bouncing around ringside in those wonderful little outfits, she's got my vote," wrote Tim Carmichael of Boulder, Colorado. We expect to see more of Gunns in 2001, no matter whose side she is on.

### VOTES FOR OTHERS (10,142)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Dawn Marie, Francine, Miss Hancock, Ivory, Jacquelyn, Jazz, The Kat, Trish Stratus, Terri, Torrie Wilson, and Mae Young.

PWI ACHIEVEMENT 2000
RAW WAR

# FEUD OF THE YEAR

## TRIPLE-H vs. KURT ANGLE
### 23,406 votes

NOT SINCE HELEN of Troy has one woman unwittingly started a war of such magnitude as the battles waged by Kurt Angle and Triple-H over Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley, Triple-H's wife. Even though Triple-H spent most of 2000 feuding with The Rock, Chris Jericho, and Mick Foley over the WWF title, the sheer hatred between Angle and Triple-H was what made their dispute stand out as Feud of the Year.

"Triple-H vs. Kurt Angle was absolutely gripping. One of the participants would up the emotional significance of their conflict every week," said Lester Morris of Memphis, Tennessee.

The underlying rivalry between Triple-H and Angle exploded after Angle lost control of his emotions and kissed Stephanie on *Smackdown*, a kiss that was replayed for weeks on WWF telecasts. Angle said he was caught up in the moment, and Stephanie quickly forgave him, but Hunter's patience had worn thin.

As emotionally charged as the Triple-H-Kurt Angle rivalry was, their contrast of styles really helped to power their feud. Angle achieved unprecedented success in his rookie year, and Triple-H could only watch as the newcomer was lauded by journalists and fans alike. After working his way up the WWF ladder for the better part of six years, Triple-H was not happy to see an amateur wrestler rise so quickly. And once Helmsley felt Angle was trying to steal his wife's imagination and heart, he became enraged.

In their matches, Triple-H attacked Angle with reckless fury and a power-based offense. Angle was able to keep his cool and frustrate Triple-H with takedowns and quick suplexes. Angle continued to fan the flames, knowing he was taking Triple-H off his game plan. And Stephanie, exercising her independence, unwittingly provoked the situation even more by defending her friendship with Angle.

"It's too bad this feud came to a close as quickly as it did—or at least as it seems to have," said Ben Gervase of Los Angeles. "Triple-H got caught up in a short feud with Chris Benoit and then turned on Steve Austin, which seems to have ended the feud for now. Kurt Angle vs. Triple-H never reached the overkill that tends to water down most feuds, and that's what made it exceptional."

"I haven't forgotten about Angle, and you can guarantee he and I are going to settle the score soon," said Triple-H. "I haven't even had a chance to cripple Kurt yet. Once I expose Austin, I'm going back for Angle. And this time, I'm not going to stop until the job is finished."

# RUNNERS-UP

1

## TRIPLE-H vs. THE ROCK
20,872 votes

**First runner-up:** The feud between Triple-H and The Rock blazed into a third year. Last year, 18,752 fans voted The Rock vs. Triple-H first runner-up to Vince McMahon vs. Steve Austin. This year, Triple-H scored big wins at WrestleMania and in their "Ironman" match. The Rock retaliated at Backlash and SummerSlam. They traded singles and tag teams wins on *Raw* and *Smackdown*. They've never liked each other and probably never will.

2

## BOOKER T vs. JEFF JARRETT
17,110 votes

**Second runner-up:** The Jarrett-Booker T feud really began at Bash at the Beach, when, after the Hulk Hogan fiasco, Vince Russo picked Booker T to wrestle Jarrett for the WCW title. Booker beat Jarrett to win the gold that night, and their feud quickly became one of WCW's hottest, as they traded the belt back and forth for months. Their battles finally cooled this fall, but a few off-color remarks by either could reignite it in an instant.

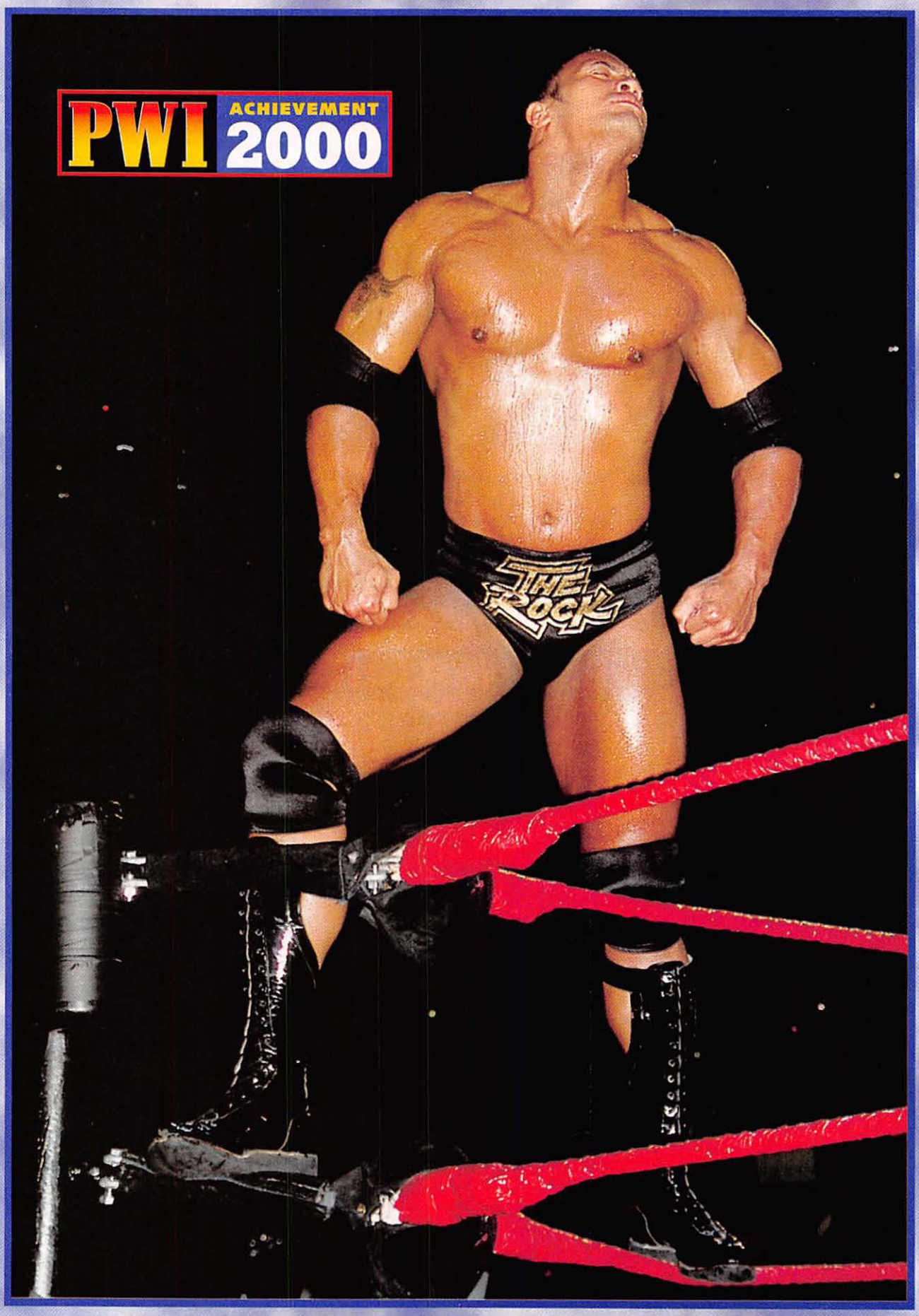
3

## EDGE & CHRISTIAN vs. THE HARDY BOYZ
14,333 votes

**Third runner-up:** Talk about evenly matched, if the Hardys were to face Edge and Christian 100 times, they could very well split the wins 50-50—and none of the matches would end the same way. Edge and Christian vs. the Hardys is sort of like the 2000 version of the classic Midnight Express-Rock 'n' Roll Express battles of the late-1980s. Both teams continue to develop new moves, and this feud is sure to continue into the foreseeable future.

## VOTES FOR OTHERS (9,371)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Chris Benoit vs. The Rock, Shane Douglas vs. Ric Flair, David Flair & Vince Russo vs. Ric Flair, Triple-H vs. Chris Jericho, Hulk Hogan vs. Billy Kidman, Kane vs. X-Pac, Rhino vs. The Sandman, and Sting vs. Vampiro.


PWI
ACHIEVEMENT
2000
THE ROCK

# MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

FOR THE SECOND year in a row, The Rock has been voted the Most Popular Wrestler of the Year. That makes him the first wrestler to win this award back-to-back since Shawn Michaels in 1995-96, and only the fifth wrestler to do so in the 28-year history of the *PWI* Achievement Awards.

It's hard to argue with the choice. After all, The Rock was outstanding when he guest-hosted *Saturday Night Live* prior to WrestleMania (as were a few of his WWF cohorts), and his Papa Peepers skit with Chris Kattan was one of the funniest bits on *SNL* in years. This was also the year The Rock's chiseled good looks, quick smile, and natural charisma won over mainstream audiences. After he filmed scenes for a supporting role as The Scorpion King in the sequel to *The Mummy,* movie executives were quick to give Rock his own feature film, the soon-to-be-shot *Scorpion King.* And what other wrestler could have done as great a job representing wrestling as The Rock did at both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions?

But regardless of those mainstream success stories, Rock continued to win over the fans where it counts—in the ring, and with a microphone in his hand.

## THE ROCK
**25,987 votes**

"I can't help it. The Rock is just the most entertaining thing going in wrestling today," said Wayne Cash of Decatur, Illinois. "When he and Chris Jericho were trading one-liners on *Raw* a while back, I found myself laughing out loud. When I watched it on tape days later, I laughed just as hard."

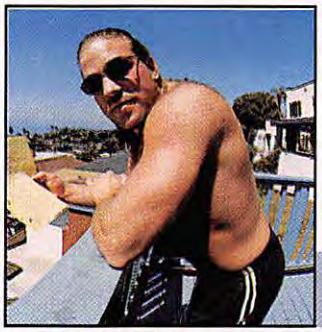
"Rock can really work a microphone, but he has also improved tremendously in the ring," wrote Terry Clark of Manhattan. "He can hit that Rock bottom at just about any time, and he surprised everyone when he was able to outwrestle Chris Benoit. The Rock has a natural enthusiasm and a desire to be the best in the business, and that's what makes him the most electrifying man in sports entertainment."

Rock's popularity seemed to waver just a bit after Rikishi charged that it was The Rock who hatched the plan to run down Steve Austin at last year's Survivor Series. But Rock held fast to his convictions, and most of the fans believed him when he said he was not involved.

"The Rock takes pride in being the greatest WWF champion of all-time, and The Rock is glad the millions ... and millions of The Rock's fans smacked down their vote and named 'The Great One' the Most Popular Wrestler of the Year," Rock said. "The Rock is happy the fans know Rikishi is a piece of trash, too!"

# RUNNERS-UP

1



## ROB VAN DAM
20,318 votes

**First runner-up:** RVD may have gone most of the year without a title belt, but his popularity certainly didn't suffer for it. Of course, any ECW star who battles Rhino and Cyrus' Network is sure to get the fans to rally behind him. Of course, Van Dam's athleticism and charisma have a lot to do with his popularity, too. Now let's see if "The Whole Show" finally makes his World title run.

2

## CHRIS JERICHO
17,656 votes

**Second runner-up:** Y2J's razor-sharp tongue and good looks combined to make him an heir-apparent to The Rock in terms of popularity. Jericho's high point of 2000 came when he seemingly beat Triple-H for the World title on *Raw.* The fan reaction was as wild as it gets. The Jericho pitching Chef Boyardee and hyping his heavy metal band, Fozzy Osbourne, is a far cry from the sadist who broke Chyna's fingers.

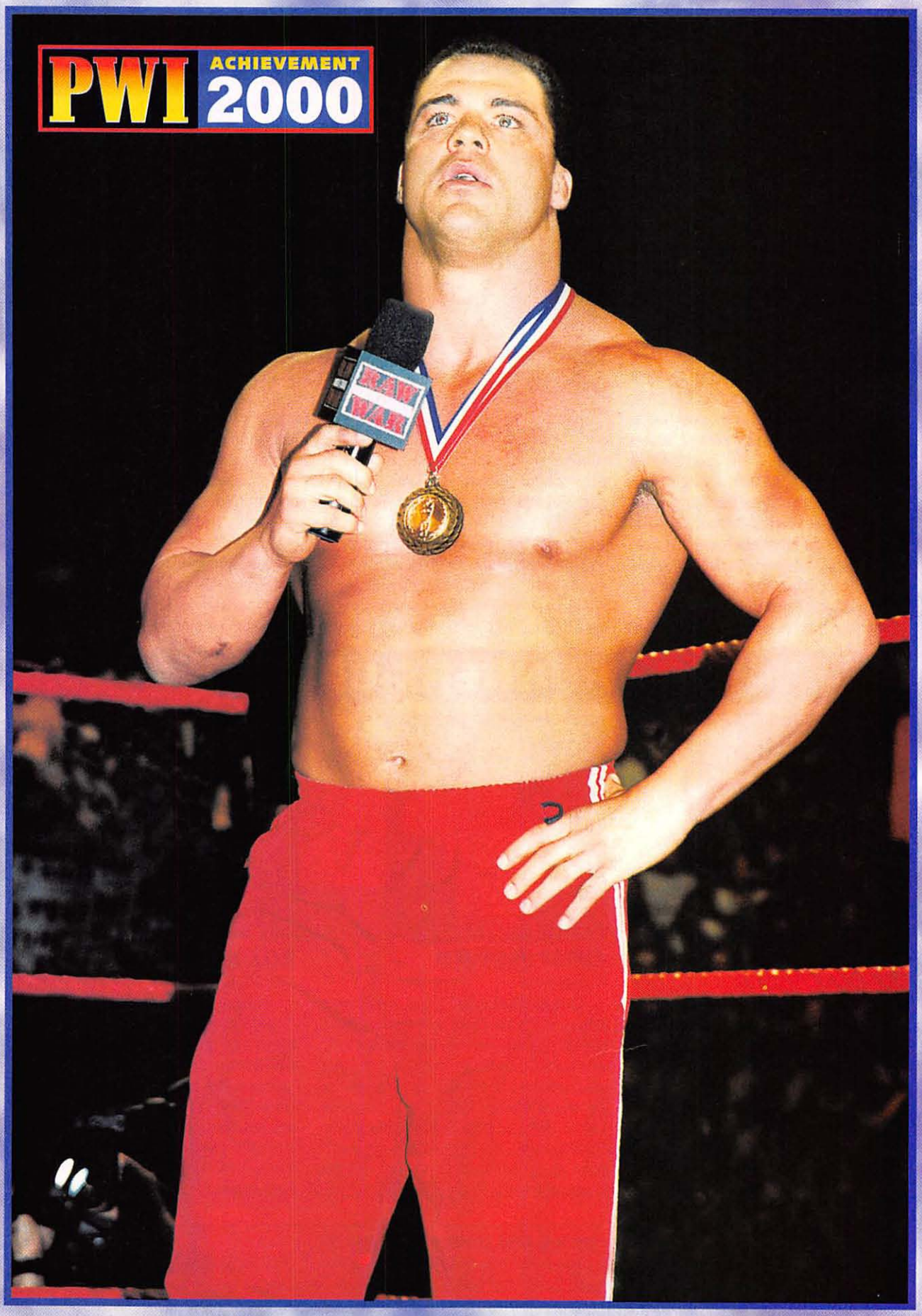
3

## BILL GOLDBERG
14,002 votes

**Third runner-up:** How popular is Bill Goldberg? Put it this way: Vince Russo forced him to turn heel—and a lot of the fans simply wouldn't have it. Goldberg has been in a bit of a rut since running afoul of Russo, but he's slowly rebuilding his momentum. "Da Man's" anti-authority stance somewhat resembles Steve Austin's mindset a few years ago. Fan reaction is similar as well.

### VOTES FOR OTHERS (10,167)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Booker T, The Dudley Boyz, Ric Flair, Mick Foley, The Hardy Boyz, The Sandman, Scotty Too Hotty, Sting, Yoshihiro Tajiri, and The Undertaker.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# MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

YOU MEAN YOU still don't appreciate this Olympic hero and his three "I's"? Kevin Henderson of New Orleans best summed up the thoughts shared by nearly 22,000 voters: "If there's one thing worse than a weasel trying to put the moves on another man's woman, it's a man who's too much of a coward to face the music," Henderson writes. "Kurt Angle may have a lot of natural skill, but as a man, there's not a heck of a lot to like about him."

Kurt Angle didn't set out to be hated. The 1996 Olympic gold medalist saw himself as a role model for wrestling fans. But the fans didn't warm to Angle's arrogant, self-promoting rhetoric, and he quickly turned into a bitter man. He made it a point to insult fans in every city he went while flaunting his precious medals. Success followed, and Angle began to collect title belts. At WrestleMania, he managed to lose the Intercontinental and European titles to Chris Benoit and Chris Jericho, respectively, without ever getting pinned. But when he appealed to the crowd for sympathy, people laughed at him for accepting a three-way match with such stipulations.

## KURT ANGLE
**21,958 votes**

Triple-H was the most reviled man in the WWF for much of the year, but Angle managed to make the fans flock to Hunter when he appeared to be trying to steal away Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley. And when Angle planted a kiss on a groggy Stephanie at the end of *Smackdown* in late-September, Helmsley suddenly became a full-fledged fan favorite, albeit briefly, just because the fans wanted to see "The Game" gain his revenge on the obnoxious Olympian.

But even worse than his holier-than-thou attitude is Angle's undeniable sadistic streak. At times, Angle drops his pretenses and strikes with disgusting savagery. He nearly snapped Crash Holly's ankle, and you can be certain he didn't learn how to deliver wicked chair shots on the amateur mats. Perhaps worst of all is that Angle is a tremendous athlete, and he has shown he *can* compete with the best in the sport on his own merits. He just chooses not to, and that's what made him the Most Hated Wrestler of the Year.

"If The Rock is considered popular, then I don't mind being considered the Most Hated Wrestler," Angle said when told he had won this award. "Unlike The Rock, I am a man of integrity, intelligence, *and* intensity. Unlike Triple-H, I am secure enough to have an adult relationship—a business relationship—with a woman. And if being a successful wrestler makes people hate me, so be it. I've been the fightingest champion in WWF history, and I have no regrets at all. I am your Olympic and your WWF hero."

Hardly.

# RUNNERS-UP

1

## TRIPLE-H
20,865 votes

**First runner-up:** Had Triple-H revealed himself as Rikishi's accomplice a few weeks earlier, he would have had this award sewn up. Instead, Hunter went from being the most hated man in the WWF to being one of the most popular to becoming the most *despised* man in the federation. He had a lot of people fooled for a while there, but he seems much more comfortable when people are booing him.

2

## STEVEN RICHARDS
14,861 votes

**Second runner-up:** We figured Richards was a lock to finish top four. After all, he gave the boot to The Godfather's (er, *Good*father's) hos, he tried to cover up the women of the WWF, and his Right To Censor group became the most unbearable stable in wrestling. It's hard to believe this is the same guy who used to chum around with The Blue Meanie and was one of the funniest men in wrestling.

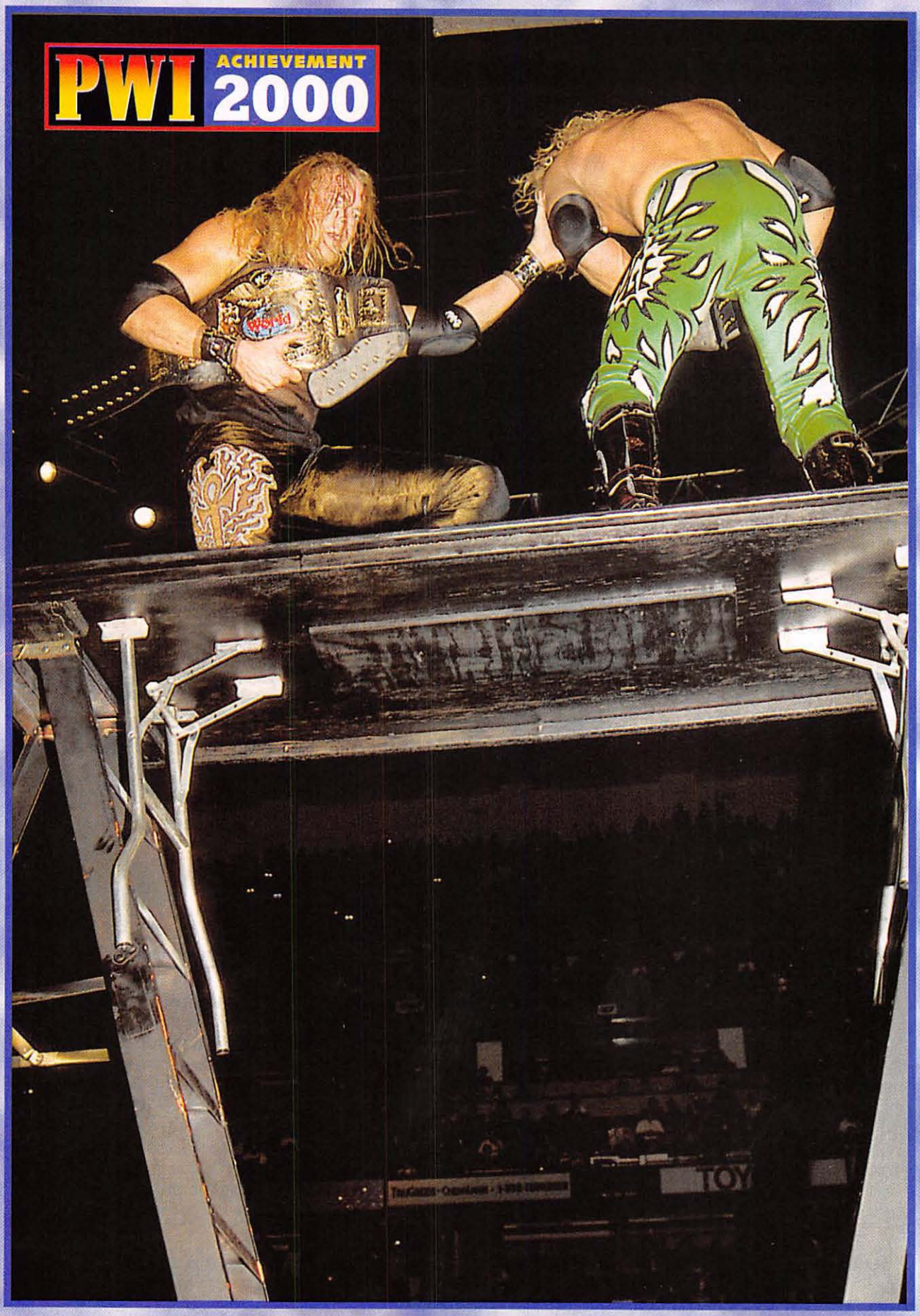
3

## JEFF JARRETT
12,113 votes

**Third runner-up:** Stroke or no stroke, Jeff Jarrett had a great first half of 2000. He was a fixture on the WCW World title scene and seemed to be on a pace to break Ric Flair's record for world title wins by year's end. Jarrett must have spent a fortune on guitars, as nearly all his matches ended with one of his six-strings getting splintered to bits. Hey, hang around Vince Russo and you're sure to be hated.

### VOTES FOR OTHERS (13,391)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Chris Benoit, Big Bossman, Justin Credible, Shane Douglas, Eddie Guerrero, Kane, Rhino, Mike Sanders, Scott Steiner, Lance Storm, and Vampiro.


PWI
ACHIEVEMENT
2000

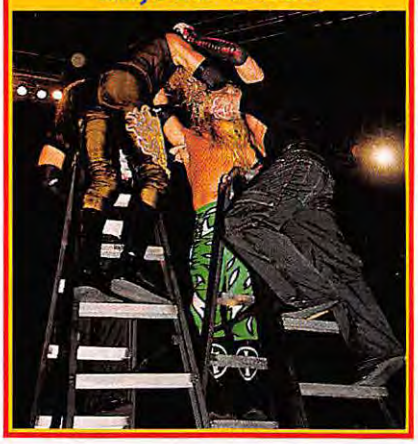
# MATCH OF THE YEAR

WANT A CAN'T-MISS match on a pay-per-view? Put these three teams in the ring, give them enough ladders to leap off, supply them with plenty of tables, and you have the ingredients for a classic. Not only did 22,833 fans select their WrestleMania ladder match as Match of the Year, but an additional 17,016 fans named the trio's tables, ladders, and chairs match from SummerSlam their choice for Match of the Year.

The three-way ladder match at WrestleMania started at a blistering pace, as the tag title belts dangled high above the ring for the taking. Edge and Christian and the Hardys double-teamed the Dudleys at the onset, with the Hardys blasting Buh Buh and D-Von in the face with ladders. But when Christian tried to climb a ladder and reach the belts at the 1:45 mark, all alliances were thrown out and the match became a true free-for-all.

The match clocked in at an action-packed 22:35 and included some of the most memorable spots of the year. There was the Dudleys' double-splash onto the ladders they had draped across the bodies of Matt and Jeff Hardy. There was Edge's brutal top-rope spear on Jeff Hardy that drilled Hardy off the ladder and onto the canvas. There was the Hardys' double-suplex from the ladders that sent D-Von crashing down 12 feet onto the mat. And, of course, there was the memorable battle atop the table—perched bridge-like across two ladders—during which Edge and Christian sent Matt Hardy somersaulting down 12 feet and through a table.

**CHRISTIAN & EDGE VS. THE HARDY BOYZ VS. THE DUDLEY BOYZ**
**22,833 votes**



But one sequence stood alone in the eyes of thousands of respondents: Jeff Hardy's thrilling swanton bomb off a ladder.

"When I saw them drag that huge ladder down the aisle, I just knew Jeff *had* to fly off it," said Mark Carmichael of St. Paul, Minnesota. "I have no idea what Jim Ross and Jerry Lawler said after Jeff hit that swanton on Buh Buh, because my friends and I were still screaming about it 20 minutes later."

"I thought I was jaded going into that match because Edge and Christian and the Hardys had those great ladder matches last year. I thought there was no way they could ever outdo those matches, especially when you had a couple of stiffs like the Dudleys in there," said Al White of Borger, Texas. "But the Dudleys really upped the level of violence, and both Edge and Christian and the Hardys responded in kind."

# RUNNERS-UP

1

## CHRIS JERICHO vs. TRIPLE-H

19,006 votes

**First runner-up:** It was Y2J's enthusiasm against Triple-H's power and determination in this last-man-standing match that was closer than just about anybody thought it would be. Jericho stood toe-to-toe with "The Game" at Fully Loaded and used every move he had. In the end, Helmsley was able to put Jericho away, but he was grudgingly forced to give Jericho his respect. This match was Jericho's best WWF effort yet.

2

## THE HARDY BOYZ vs. THE DUDLEY BOYZ vs. EDGE & CHRISTIAN

17,016 votes

**Second runner-up:** Here's a bit of historical perspective: The only other time the participants in the Match of the Year were also voted a runner-up in the same category in the same year was in 1989, when Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat took home the top honor as well as that of second runner-up. Edge and Christian managed to survive this TLC match at SummerSlam, but it was obvious that they wouldn't hold on to the belts much longer.

3

## SUPER CRAZY vs. YOSHIHIRO TAJIRI

11,968 votes

**Third runner-up:** Tajiri and Super Crazy had some classic battles in 2000, but this 12-minute Mexican death match at the ECW Arena was the most intense of them all. At one point, they fought into the crowd, with Tajiri connecting with a moonsault off some bleachers. He later tried to stuff a steel pipe down Crazy's throat. However, Crazy was able to overcome Tajiri's lunacy to earn the win after power-bombing Tajiri through a table.

**VOTES FOR OTHERS (6,774)**

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Triple-H vs. Cactus Jack (January 23); Triple-H, X-Pac, Perry Saturn, Dean Malenko & Chris Benoit vs. The Rock, Cactus Jack, Rikishi, & Too Cool (February 7); Jeff Jarrett vs. Dallas Page (April 16); Chris Benoit vs. Chris Jericho (April 30); Jerry Lynn vs. Rob Van Dam (May 14); Triple-H vs. The Rock vs. Cactus Jack vs. The Big Show (April 2); Booker T vs. Jeff Jarrett (July 9); and Chris Benoit vs. Triple-H (October 22).

# PWI ACHIEVEMENT 2000

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# TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

## THE HARDY BOYZ
### 23,417 votes

IT PROBABLY HELPED Matt and Jeff Hardy that a good percentage of the votes rolled in before they dropped the WWF tag title to The Goodfather and Bull Buchanan on November 6, as the Hardys barely squeaked out a win in the second-tightest category of the year.

It was a banner year for tag team wrestling in the WWF, and the Hardys established themselves as the most exciting team in an exciting division. Their fluid tags, breathtaking aerial maneuvers, and willingness to take on all comers were some of the many factors cited by the 23,417 voters who named them Tag Team of the Year.

"Even with a pair of ladders and a bunch of tables set up in the ring, the Hardys seemed to be in their element," said Glenn Sheets of Las Vegas. "They held their own against the Dudleys at the Dudleys' own game in the tables, ladders, and chairs match at SummerSlam, and then they manhandled Edge and Christian in a series of more technical matches. In my opinion, the Hardys are the most well-rounded team out there today."

"The Hardy Boyz are a throwback to some of the greatest teams in wrestling history, teams like The Midnight Express, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, and The Rockers," said Steven Trimble of Madison, Wisconsin. "But unlike those teams, they are able to brawl with the best of them when it comes down to it."

Of course, the Hardys' sex appeal didn't hurt, either. "I *love* to watch the Hardys in the ring, but I just can't stand watching Jeff climb up a ladder. It's too much knowing that he's risking harming that gorgeous body of his," said Kynia Anderson of Salamanca, New York.

Jeff's swanton bomb and Matt's twist of fate variation of the Ace crusher helped the Hardys collect victories over the Dudleys, Edge and Christian, Test and Albert, Lo-Down, The Acolytes, and Road Dogg and X-Pac. Though it has cooled somewhat in recent months, the feud between the Hardys and Edge and Christian was one of the most thrilling and even tag feuds in years. And since it was Edge and Christian's interference that ended up costing Matt and Jeff the belts, it looks like there are more battles to be fought in that war.

"I would sincerely like to thank the readers of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED for this honor," said Matt Hardy. "Jeff and I hope to win this award again many times in the coming years."

# RUNNERS-UP

1

## EDGE & CHRISTIAN
22,750 votes

**First runner-up:** Only 667 votes separated Edge and Christian from the number-one spot, which is only fitting. Edge and Christian match up perfectly with Matt and Jeff Hardy, and their careers are intertwined. Their biggest wins of the year came over the Hardys. Unfortunately for the Canadians, the Hardys scored several wins over them just as voters were filling out their ballots.

2

## THE DUDLEY BOYZ
21,213 votes

**Second runner-up:** The Dudleys were also within striking range of the Hardys, but fell short by 2,204 votes. Buh Buh and D-Von, third runners-up last year, pulled off one of the biggest conversions in history by winning over the fans after establishing themselves as the most hated duo in wrestling. The Dudleys are always a top contender to the tag title, and they remain a team to beat in the WWF.

3

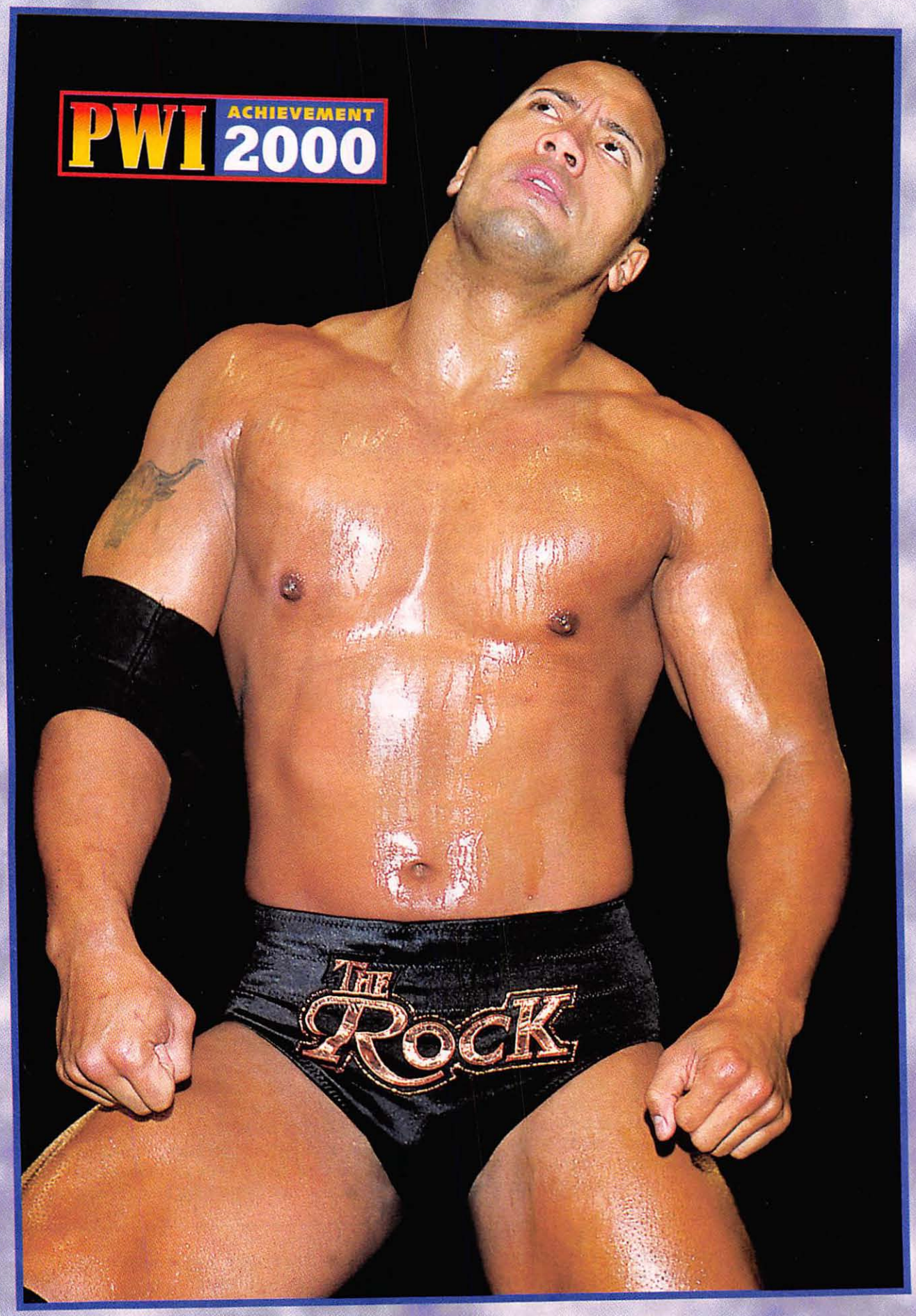
Photo Courtesy Of WCW Magazine

## KRONIC
9,371 votes

**Third runner-up:** Bryan Adams and Brian Clark are one of the most physically gifted teams in wrestling. Though they had been struggling in the singles scene, once the two Briyans joined forces, it didn't take long for them to storm to the top of the WCW tag team scene. However, Kronic's mercenary obsession with breaking necks and cashing checks has seen them become pawns of lesser men.

### VOTES FOR OTHERS (11,376)

Some of the other top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: The Acolytes, Justin Credible & Lance Storm, Mark Jindrak & Sean O'Haire, Danny Doring & Roadkill, and Test & Albert.


PWI ACHIEVEMENT 2000
THE ROCK

# WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

TRIPLE-H MAY have held the WWF title for more days in the year 2000, but in the hearts of the fans, it was The Rock who was the most dominant superstar of the year.

With Steve Austin out of the picture for most of the year, The Rock was able to commandeer the spotlight and become the most popular wrestler in the WWF. When The Rock wasn't the World champion, he was the top contender. When he was the World champion, he was putting the belt on the line against all worthy contenders. With or without the belt, The Rock was the man to beat in 2000, and very few people managed to do it.

"Triple-H had a great run as champion, but it always seemed like he was relying on outside interference or weapons to keep the belt. The Rock fought his battles on his own, and more times than not, he came out on top of 'The Game,'" wrote Leah McGinnis of Hartford, Connecticut.

"What won me over was that The Rock has become a better all-around wrestler this year," said Jonathan Coreant of Toronto. "During his feud with Chris Benoit, he started incorporating the Crippler crossface into his arsenal. A few weeks later, he started using a version of the sharpshooter. And with his high-impact moves like the Rock bottom and the Samoan drop, Rock has plenty of ways to beat you. He can win a match at any time, against any opponent, and that's why he gets my vote."

## THE ROCK
### 23,839 votes

The Rock wore the WWF World title twice in 2000 and joined Hulk Hogan and Bret Hart as the only men to win five WWF World titles in their careers. That's some heady company. But The Rock remains focused more on the future rather than on past accomplishments.

"This just goes to show that The Rock is, has always been, and will always be the people's champion," The Rock said when told he had won. "Kurt Angle could have the WWF title today. The Undertaker could be WWF champion tomorrow. The next day, D-Lo Brown or Naked Guy Midian could have the belt. It doesn't matter what the champion's name is. The fact of the matter is this: The next time The Rock gets a title shot, it will be 'The Brahma Bull' walking out of the ring a six-time WWF champion. Spare the votes and let it be known: The Rock will be the Wrestler of the Decade!"

# RUNNERS-UP

1

## TRIPLE-H
23,626 votes

**First runner-up:** Triple-H retired Mick Foley at No Way Out, then became the first heel ever to walk out of WrestleMania with the WWF title. He beat The Rock in an "Ironman" match at Judgment Day and was even ranked number one in the *"PWI* 500," barely beating out The Rock. It seems Triple-H and The Rock will always compete for the spotlight. By a margin of 213 votes, The Rock took this round.

2

## BOOKER T
18,770 votes

**Second runner-up:** Booker T went from being half of Harlem Heat to being a three-time WCW champion in 2000. Booker proved himself two years ago when he outlasted Chris Benoit in a best-of-eight series to become the top contender for the TV title. But it wasn't until this year that he got a chance to prove he could be a main-eventer in WCW. He definitely took full advantage of it.

3

## KURT ANGLE
14,221 votes

**Third runner-up:** He may be an Olympic hero and may have won the World, Intercontinental, and European belts (and the King of the Ring) in his rookie year, but Angle has a way to go before he convinces the fans of his greatness. Angle's reigns were marked by tainted wins and cowardice. And he owes his World title win to Rikishi. But we're sure he has some great years ahead of him.

### VOTES FOR OTHERS (11,041)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Mike Awesome, Chris Benoit, Justin Credible, Jeff Jarrett, Chris Jericho, Kenta Kobashi, Rhino, Scott Steiner, and Sting.

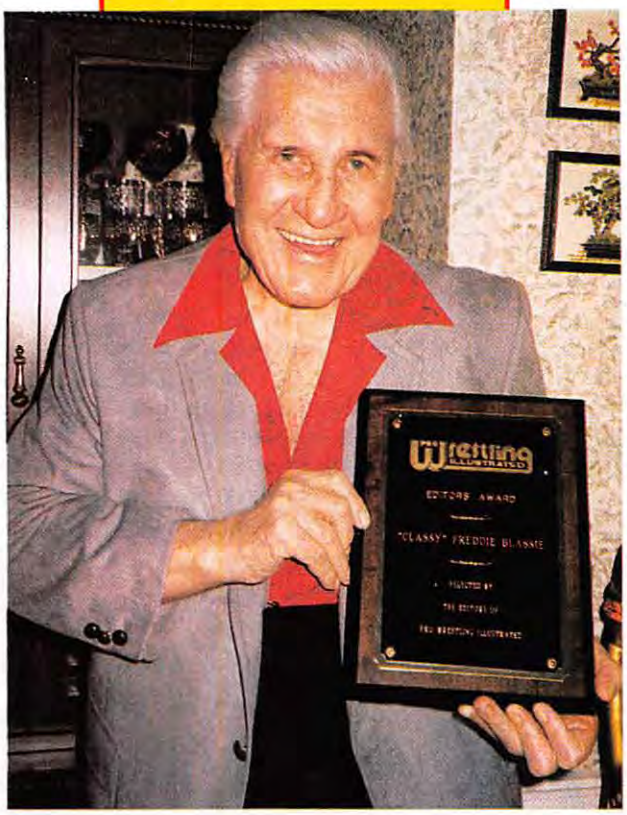
# EDITORS' AWARD

PWI ACHIEVEMENT 2000

## FREDDIE BLASSIE

IT'S EASY TO see why Freddie Blassie was one of the most feared rulebreakers in history. "I was born mean and I stayed mean all my life," Blassie said. "I didn't go out of my way to cultivate friends. I preferred my own company over being around all those other pencil-necked geeks."

Blassie was a rulebreaker's rulebreaker, extreme before Terry Funk was even born. Blassie was able to adapt as the wrestling industry was rocked by the WWF's expansion and the Rock 'n' Wrestling Connection of the mid-1980s. He managed The Iron Sheik to the WWF title and introduced us all to a prospect named Hulk Hogan. Today, at the age of 83, "Classy" Freddie still does promotional work and voiceovers for the WWF, and it's obvious that he hasn't been mellowed by his time away from the ring. In light of his remarkable career, Blassie is the recipient of the *PWI* Editors' Award for 2000.




Blassie wrestled his first match with a touring carnival in 1935 at the age of 17. Blassie's opponent savagely beat him down, and Blassie walked away with the loser's share of the purse—a dollar. "It cost me five bucks to get a wrestler's license, so I was out four my first day on the job," Blassie said.

Blassie never forgot the beating he took at the hands of that first opponent, and he lobbied for a rematch. "It took quite a while to get that guy back in the ring, and let's just say I made him regret doing that to me," Blassie said with a chuckle. "He was conceding and I suddenly became deaf. He retired right after that match."

It was during his carnival days that Blassie developed his trademark putdown. One day the promoter suggested Blassie take a break from the athletic tent and go next door to check out the carnival. Blassie went to the freak show and stumbled across a carny freak who would bite the heads off chickens. "The geek's head was two sizes too big for his body, and his neck looked like a stack of dimes," Blassie said. "I said, 'Take a look at this pencil-necked geek,' and it just stuck."

Blassie paid his dues, and in 1954, he finally struck gold, winning the NWA Southern title. Blassie went on to win that title an incredible 14 times between 1954 and 1960 and established himself as the most hated wrestler in the Southeast. Once Blassie invaded Los Angeles, his reputation grew to legendary proportions. Dubbed "The King Of Men," Blassie piled up titles, beating the likes of Rikidozan, Edouard Carpentier, and John Tolos. During this time, Blassie claimed he would sharpen his teeth with a file and dig his fangs into opponents' scalps. Many opponents refused to step into the ring with "The Vampire," one of the most sadistic wrestlers ever.

After dominating California, Blassie ventured to the World Wide Wrestling Federation. Blassie remained as vicious in New York as he was in L.A., and on several occasions nearly beat Bruno Sammartino and Pedro Morales for the WWF title. By the late-1970s, the effects of his four decades of battle had taken their toll; Blassie's bad knees forced him into retirement.

From there, he went on to become one of the most successful managers in WWF history, signing vicious anti-American menaces like The Iron Sheik, Spiros Arion, Nikolai Volkoff, Killer Khan, and Mr. Fuji, as well as homegrown monsters like George Steele, Stan Hansen, Dick Murdoch, Adrian Adonis, and Jesse Ventura.

"Those were some tough guys, but they listened to me because I was the toughest of 'em all," Blassie said. "You could trust those guys. They just wanted to make a good buck, and I saw to it that they did."

As "The Hollywood Fashion Plate," Blassie found a role in the WWF during its boom period in the 1980s. He even filmed a movie with Andy Kaufman entitled *My Breakfast With Blassie*. Blassie has fond memories of Kaufman, who once told him he dreamed of being the Freddie Blassie of Hollywood.

Today, Blassie lives at home with Miyako, his wife of 33 years. He still enjoys watching wrestling and considers The Rock his favorite. "I fought his grandfather (Peter Maivia) and his dad (Rocky Johnson), and they were two rough guys," Blassie recalled. In addition to doing promotional work with the WWF, Blassie volunteers with the Community Mayors of New York, an organization that benefits handicapped kids. Blassie's calloused tone softens when he talks about organizing trips to Coney Island for handicapped kids.

"It's wonderful to see these kids enjoying themselves," he said. "It really doesn't take much to make them happy."

Whether as a vampire or a Hollywood fashion plate, "Classy" Freddie Blassie is a true original. We are proud to present him with our *PWI* Editors' Award. □

# PWI ACHIEVEMENT 2000

# YOUR UNOFFICIAL/OFFICIAL AWARDS FOR 2000

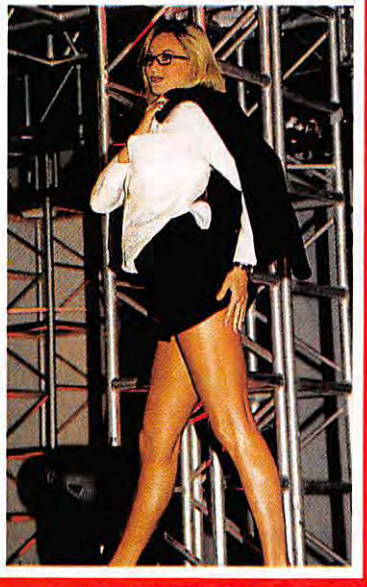
**Once again we have asked our readers to create their own awards and name the person most deserving of those awards. It's our annual showcase of our fans' creativity, our way of dubiously honoring those involved with our favorite sport**

**Add Another "I" For Infidelity:** Kurt Angle
—Reid Shimizu, Aiea, HI

**American Dumb Ass:** The Undertaker
—Shaun Stirneman, Cuero, TX

**And They Call It "Puppy Love":** Steve Austin marries Debra
—Ignazio Manganaro, Woodbridge, Ontario

**Anything But:** The Natural Born Thrillers
—Reid Shimizu, Aiea, HI



**Any Shorter And That Skirt Would Be Underwear:** Miss Hancock
—Ignazio Manganaro, Woodbridge, Ontario

**As Quick As A Cat And Falls With A Splat:** Shane McMahon
—Stephen Moore, steven2k@btinternet.com

**A Triple Threat By Himself:** Lance Storm
—Thomas R. Shaw, Christ Church, New Zealand

**Behold The Power Of Cheese:** Steve Blackman
—Jenny Stark, Houston, TX

**Best Ink (Female):** Lita
—Andrew Beavin, Louisville, KY

**Best Ink (Male):** The Undertaker
—Andrew Beavin, Louisville, KY

**Best Reason To Put Green Cards In Cracker Jack Boxes:** Super Crazy
—James Price, Walton, IN

**Best Thing To Happen To Ladder Matches Since Shawn Michaels:** Jeff Hardy
—Justin Ballard, Boston, MA

**Bonzai And Thanks For The Memories:** Yokozuna
—RingMasterDCG@cs.com

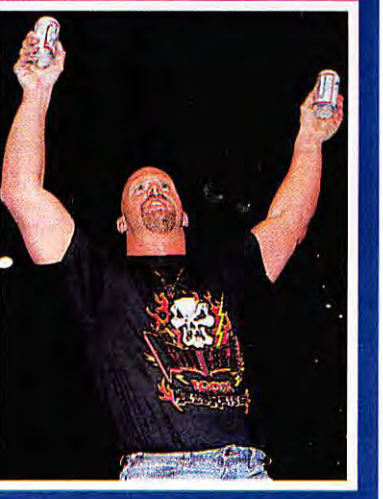
**Can Beat The Pants Off Of Me Anytime:** Lita
—Chris Profitt, Jacksonville, IL

**Can You Say "AWA"?:** WCW
—Malcolm Brown, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

**Couldn't Have Happened To A Nicer Guy:** Jerry Lynn wins the ECW World title
—Johnny Heering, Bethel, CT

**Do You Smell What the "Stinger's" Burnin'?:** Vampiro
—Stephen Moore, steven2k@btinternet.com

**Dream Couple:** Terry Funk & Mae Young
—Luc Charbonneau, Montreal, Quebec



**Drunk 3:16, 24:7, and 3:65:** Steve Austin
—Michael P. McCoy, Baltimore, MD

**Evel Knievel Meets Rainbow Bright:** Jeff Hardy
—Eric Hyde, DeKalb, IL

**Failing Grade:** Test
—RingMasterDCG@cs.com

**Favorite City In Oklahoma Is Tulsa Because Tulsa Spelled Backward Is "A Slut":** Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley
—Tom Smail, Lake Hiawatha, NJ

# PWI ACHIEVEMENT 2000

**Finally Killed Off Hulkamania:** Vince Russo
—Brian Finger, Memphis, TN

**Frank Gotch Is Rolling Over In His Grave:** David Arquette wins the WCW World title
—Kevin Watson, Spring Lake, NJ

**From Who's Who To Who's That?:** WCW's roster
—Michael P. McCoy, Baltimore, MD

**From Dead Man To D.O.A.:** The Undertaker
—William Wright III, Pearl City, H

**Genetic Jackass:** George Jetson And His Boy Elroy: Hardcore and Crash Holly
—Stephen Moore, steven2k@btinternet.com

**G.I. Chalupa:** Lt. Loco
—James L. O'Connor, New Orleans, LA

**Give The Woman A Hand:** Mae Young
—Richard Caron, North Grafton, MA

**Gone And Hopefully Forgotten:** Michael Buffer
—William Wright III, Pearl City, HI

**Got His Journalism Degree From The Phil Mushnick School Of Yellow Journalism:** Harry Burkett
—Barry Boudreaux, Houma, LA

**Got Tooth?:** Chris Benoit
—Tim Dobransk, Ocean City, MD

**Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow:** Val Venis & Mick Foley
—Tom Smail, Lake Hiawatha, NJ

**Half The Meanie He Used To Be:** Blue Boy
—jonathan.lipscombe@uk.dreamcast.com

**Harder To Find Than A Needle In A Haystack:** A good WCW match
—Reid Shimizu, Aiea, HI

**Hardest Kick Of The Year (Tie):** Yoshihiro Tajiri & the horse that kicked Terry Funk on *Thunder*
—William Wright III, Pearl City, HI

**Has About As Much Charisma As One:** Sgt. A-Wall
—William Wright III, Pearl City, HI

**He Better Call Somebody To See Where His Career Is Headed:** Road Dogg
—Tim Dobransk, Ocean City, MD

**He Exceeds My Television's Weight Limit:** Mark Madden
—Brian Polinsky, Pittsburgh, PA

**Hell Is Getting A Bit Nippy:** Triple-H & Steve Corino become fan favorites
—Nick Accetta, Brooklyn, NY

**He's On My TV More Than My Local Weatherman:** Vince Russo
—Tim Dobransk, Ocean City, MD

**His Speech Therapist Must Be A Miracle Worker:** Kane
—Reid Shimizu, Aiea, HI

**How Many Times Does He Have To Be Announced As World Champion To Actually Be The Champion?:** Chris Benoit
—Kevin Kleppang, Utica, NY

**How Can We Miss You If You Won't Go Away?:** Ric Flair
—Terry Hrovat, LaSalle, IL

**If He's A Natural Born Thriller, Then Mark Madden Really Is The Best-Looking Big Man On TV:** Chuck Palumbo
—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, GA

**If He's Old School, Then I Invented The Eight-Track:** Steve Corino
—James L. O'Connor, New Orleans, LA

**If He's Prime Time, Then I'm The Game:** Elix Skipper
—jonathan.lipscombe@uk.dreamcast.com

**If He's Simba, I'm Gazuga, Lord Of The Monkeymen:** Shane McMahon
—Barry Boudreaux, Houma, LA

**If He's The Best-Looking Big Man On TV, Moby Dick Is A Cute Little Goldfish:** Mark Madden
—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, GA

**If He Was Such A Good Plumber, You'd Figure He Would Have Gotten His Son's Career Out Of The Toilet By Now:** Dusty Rhodes
—Cory Schwent, Bloomsdale, MO

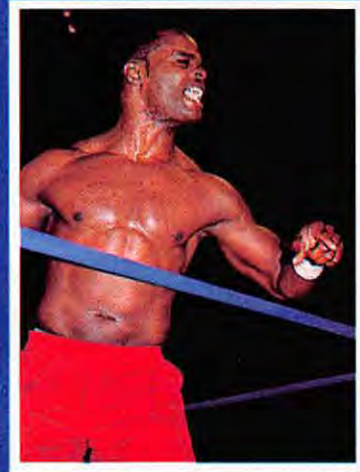
**I Guess Goldberg's Superkick Was Worse Than Getting Screwed By The WWF:** Bret Hart
—Joe Rodriguez, Alsip, IL

**I Guess We Know Which Vince Really Saved The WWF:** Vince McMahon
—Reid Shimizu, Aiea, HI

**I Love My Wife ... I Love My Wife ... I Love My Wife:** Lita
—Luc Charbonneau, Montreal, Quebec

**I'm So Dull, I Bore Myself:** Chris Benoit
—Lisa Brady, Grandview, TN

**Is There Something They Can't Do?** The Hardy Boyz
—Luc Charbonneau, Montreal, Quebec



**Isn't That Gary Coleman?** Elix Skipper
—Ignazio Manganaro, Woodbridge, Ontario

**I Sure Hope They Weren't Real:** Mae Young's "puppies"
—Johnny Heering, Bethel, CT

**It Doesn't Matter Who Gets This Award:** The Rock
—Justin Ladwig, Omaha, NE

**Think They Need A Transfusion:** The New Blood
—William Wright III, Pearl City, HI

**It's Just Like The WWF ... Being Done By My Local High School:** WCW
—Joe Stepsis, Millsboro, DE

**It's So Inside That Only Vince Russo Gets It:** WCW
—William Wright III, Pearl City, HI

**I Want A Job Like His One Day:** Scott Hall
—Reid Shimizu, Aiea, HI

**I Wish It Was July 7, 1996:** Hulk Hogan
—Dariel Irby, Hanover, MD

**I Wonder If "Mexican Strategy" Includes Stripping Naked And Throwing A Spaz Attack:** Juventud Guerrera
—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, GA

**King Of The Crimson Mask:** Steve Corino
—Irv Deitz Jr., Middletown, PA

**Longest Skid Mark I've Ever Seen:** Pat Patterson
—Barry Boudreaux, Houma, LA

**Made Sense To Have A Queen Or Two At King Of The Ring:** Pat Patterson & Gerald Brisco
—Thomas R. Shaw, Christ Church, New Zealand

**Mama-cheater:** Eddie Guerrero
—jonathan.lipscombe@uk.dreamcast.com

**Man Of 1,000 Dark Matches:** Dean Malenko
—RingMasterDCG@cs.com

**Maybe He Needs "That '70s Bus" To Haul All His Fat Chicks Around:** Mike Awesome
—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, GA

**Maybe He Was The Best Of All-Time:** Bret Hart
—Stephen Moore, steven2k@btinternet.com

**Missing In Talent:** Missing In Action
—Dariel Irby, Hanover, MD

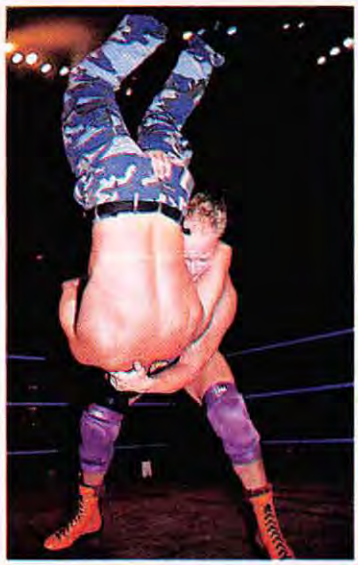
**More Breasts And Thighs Than Popeye's And KFC Combined:** The hos
—James L. O'Connor, New Orleans, LA

**Most Creative Use Of A Fanny Pack:** Naked Man Midian
—Lisa Brady, Grandview, TN

**Most Hated Non-Wrestler Of The Year:** L. Brent Bozell III
—Reid Shimizu, Aiea, HI

**Most Likely To Drop A Coveted World Title To Accompany Fat Chicks To The Ring:** Mike Awesome
—James Price, Walton, IN

**More Cheap Pops Than A Soda Factory:** Commissioner Foley
—jonathan.lipscombe@uk.dreamcast.com



**Most Likely To Be Stuck With A Stupid Gimmick:** Kwee-Wee
—David Boice, Weston, M

**Most Obnoxious New Yorker Since Joey Buttafuoco:** Vince Russo
—Tom Smail, Lake Hiawatha, NJ

**Most Stunning Return:** Steve Austin
—Jeff Moses, Holden, MA

**My Career's Sagging Worse Than Mae Young's Puppies:** Road Dogg
—Rob Becker, Columbus, OH

**My Daddy Owns The Company, So I Get More TV Time Than The World Champion:** Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley
—Lisa Brady, Grandview, TN

**Nice T & A ... And Test And Albert Aren't Bad, Either:** Trish Stratus
—Stephen Moore, steven2k@btinternet.com

**Not Tonight, Honey, I Have A Headache:** Bret Hart
—Lisa Brady, Grandview, TN

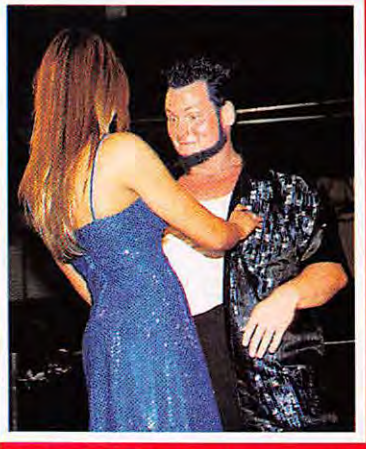
**Old Age Outlaws:** Mae Young & Fabulous Moolah
—Stephen Moore, steven2k@btinternet.com

**Only Reason To Watch WCW:** Scott Steiner
—Richard Caron, North Grafton, MA

**Passion Fruit:** Kwee-Wee
—Johnny Heering, Bethel, CT

**Please, No More Reunions:** NWO
—Joe Rodriguez, Alsip, IL

# PWI ACHIEVEMENT 2000



**One Lucky S.O.B.:** The Blue Boy dating Jasmin St. Claire
—Ignazio Manganaro, Woodbridge, Ontario

**Please Stay Away This Time:** Hulk Hogan
—Justin Ballard, Boston, MA

**Positively Awful:** Kanyon
—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, GA

**Prom Date From Hell:** Daffney
—James L. O'Connor, New Orleans, LA

**Proof That Wearing A Jock Strap On Your Head Kills Brain Cells:** Justin Credible
—Malcolm Brown, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

**Rena Who?:** Rena Mero
—William Wright III, Pearl City, HI

**Riding The Caboose Of The Ho Train:** Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley
—Greg Smith, Cleveland, OH

**Seemingly Worse Every Week:** The WCW Announcing Team
—Michael Frissore, frissore@juno.com

**Separated At Birth:** Tank Abbott & Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart
—Tom Smail, Lake Hiawatha, NJ

**Slug Life:** Tazz
—Lisa Brady, Grandview, TN

**Still Aldo Montoya To Me:** Justin Credible
—Chris Profitt, Jacksonville, IL

**Talk About Bankruptcy!:** The vanishing of The Millionaires Club
—Dan Wray, Belfast, Northern Ireland

**Thanks For The Memories:** Gordon Solie
—Chris Bridges, Winder, GA

**That's Exactly What I Think When I See Rhino:** Big F'n Deal
—William Wright III, Pearl City, HI

**The Best Rack In The Business:** Joel Gertner
—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, GA

**The Best Thing About Nitro:** 8:59:59 ET
—Dariel Irby, Hanover, MD

**The Bitter End:** Bret Hart
—Johnny Heering, Bethel, CT

**The David Crockett Broadcasting Award For The Most Biased Announcer Who Screams For No Reason At All:** Mark Madden
—Dave Whitaker, Danville, GA

**The Devil Made Him Do It:** Mikey Whipwreck
—William Wright III, Pearl City, H

**The Finest Thing Since Dark Journey:** Jazz
—James L. O'Connor, New Orleans, LA

**The Five Most Terrifying Words In Wrestling:** WCW World champion Vince Russo
—Ronald Bush, Brooklyn, NY

**The Good Humor Employee Of The Year:** Val Venis
—Tim Dobransk, Ocean City, MD

**The Innovator Of Silence:** Dean Malenko
—John Womack, Philadelphia, PA

**The Lesser Of Two Vinces:** Vince Russo
—Johnny Heering, Bethel, CT

**The Lex Luger Award For Crybaby Of The Year:** Bill Goldberg
—Ignazio Manganaro, Woodbridge, Ontario

**The New A.F.K.A.P.:** Albert
—Thomas R. Shaw, Christ Church, New Zealand

**The Only Election That Matters In 2000:** The *PWI* Achievement Awards
—Anthony Decker, Narrows, KY

**The Only Franchise He Could Run Is A Burger King:** Shane Douglas
—Irv Deitz Jr., Middletown, PA

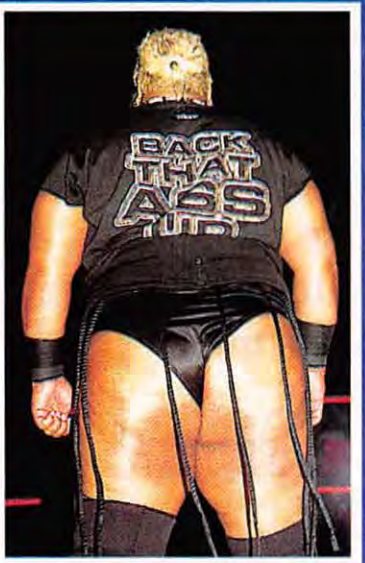
**The Person You'd Least Like To Follow Into A Taco Bell Restroom:** Rikishi
—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, GA

**The Real Career Killer:** Bill Goldberg
—Johnny Heering, Bethel, CT

**The Real Career Killer:** WCW's creative team
—Chris Setterlund, Las Vegas, NV

**The Reason Streaking Went Out Of Style:** Midian
—William Wright III, Pearl City, HI

**There's More Competition, But This One Is Still The Best:** *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*
—Chris Bridges, Winder, GA




**The Real Mr. Ass:** Rikishi
—Mike Dilworth, Portsmouth, OH

**The Return Of The California Raisins:** Mae Young shows her puppies
—Tom Smail, Lake Hiawatha, NJ

**The Ronnie Garvin "Worst World Champion" Award:** David Arquette
—John Siget III, Rochester, PA

**The Undisputed WCW Heavyweight Champion Of The World ... You're Kidding Me, Right?:** David Arquette
—Stephen Moore, steven2k@btinternet.com

**The Village Idiot And The Town Buffoon:** Edge & Christian
—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, GA

**This Bad Ass Was Better Off Dead:** The Undertaker
—Nick Accetta, Brooklyn, NY

**Those Puppies Should Be Put To Sleep:** Mae Young at the Royal Rumble
—Stephen Moore, steven2k@btinternet.com

**Totally Pointless, Dudes:** Edge & Christian
—Stephen Moore, steven2k@btinternet.com

**Totally Reeking Of Awesomeness:** Edge & Christian
—Michael Frissore, frissore@juno.com

**Two Fools:** Too Cool
—Johnny Heering, Bethel, CT

**Vince Of The Year:** Vince McMahon
—William Wright III, Pearl City, HI

**Was That His Gimmick Or The Number Of Weeks He Spent In WCW:** Seven (a.k.a. Dustin Rhodes)
—Tim Dobransk, Ocean City, MD

**We Gots To Know Why He Has A Career:** Stevie Ray
—Richard Caron, North Grafton, MA

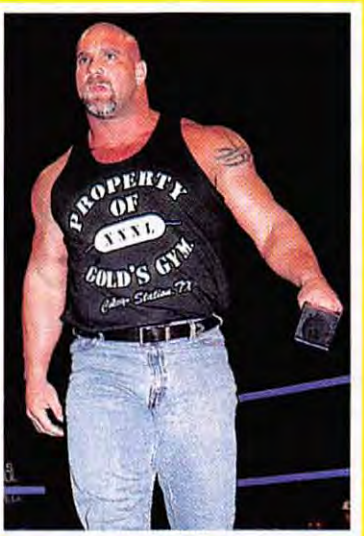
**Went From Winning Streak To Yellow Streak:** Goldberg
—Thomas R. Shaw, Christ Church, New Zealand

**We're All Out Of "Bang," How About A Little "Plink" Instead?:** "Diamond" Dallas Page
—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, GA

**Where In The World Are You?:** Ken Shamrock
—David Lewis, Poughkeepsie, NY

**Where's The Ark?:** NOAH
—Andrew Beavin, Louisville, KY

**Where's The PTC When You Need 'Em?:** Xtreme Pro Wrestling
—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, GA




**Who's Left?:** Goldberg
—James L. O'Connor, New Orleans, LA

**Who Said Rock 'n' Wrestling Was Just An '80s Fad?:** *Sunday Night Heat* debuts on MTV
—Thomas R. Shaw, Christ Church, New Zealand

**Why Is This Man Still Not Heavyweight Champ?:** Rob Van Dam
—jonathan.lipscombe@uk.dreamcast.com

**Will Eventually Form A Tag Team, No Butts About It!:** Rikishi & Billy Gunn
—Tom Smail, Lake Hiawatha, NJ

**World's Slowest Run-In:** The Sandman
—William Wright III, Pearl City, HI

**Worse Than The Ding Dongs:** WCW World champion David Arquette
—Michael Frissore, frissore@juno.com

**Worst Dressed:** Mark Madden
—Johnny Heering, Bethel, CT

**Would You Please Stop Embarassing Canada?:** Lance Storm
—Ken Sawicki, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada

**Wrestling's Italian Stallion:** Big Vito
—Joe Rodriguez, Alsip, IL

**Wrestling Writer Of The Year:** Stu Saks
—Chris Bridges, Winder, GA

**You Can't Teach An Old Dog A New Catchphrase:** Road Dogg
—William Wright III, Pearl City, HI

# PWI ACHIEVEMENT 2000

# 2001 PREDICTIONS

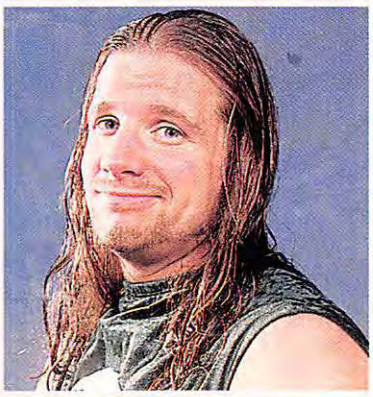
**What do our readers think will happen in the world of professional wrestling during the next 12 months? Once again we asked them, and as usual, our armchair prophets came through with some bizarre ideas. Will anyone's 2000 predictions come true? Check this issue next year to find out!**

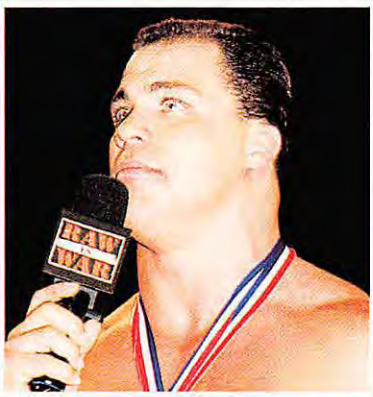
**Justin Credible**, **Rhino**, **Simon Diamond**, and **The Sandman** will all leave ECW ... As a result, **Super Crazy**, **C.W. Anderson**, **Yoshihiro Tajiri**, and **Nova** will all become headline stars ... **Shawn Michaels** will go to ECW and take on a non-wrestling role after getting out of his contract with the WWF ... **Bret Hart** will start a wrestling school and independent promotion in Calgary and will forge a working relationship with ECW as well ... C.W. Anderson will win the ECW World title and become one of the promotion's most dominant champions, then get defeated by TV champ **Rob Van Dam** at November to Remember ... The hottest feud of the year will be **Kurt Angle** vs. **Chris Jericho** over the WWF title ... **Chris Benoit** will also win the WWF title late in the year ... After beating **Triple-H** in the main event of WrestleMania XVII, **Steve Austin** will announce his retirement and become the WWF's new commissioner ... **Hulk Hogan** will return to the WWF to start a feud with **The Rock**. The two will meet at SummerSlam, a show for which the WWF will break all pay-per-view buy rate records. The feud will last for the rest of the year ... WCW will remain in the basement and will team up with a new federation that is run by **Eric Bischoff**, but by the end of the year, WCW will be knocking on **Vince McMahon's** door again ... XPW, WOW, and Japan's FMW and Pro Wrestling NOAH will all go out of business.

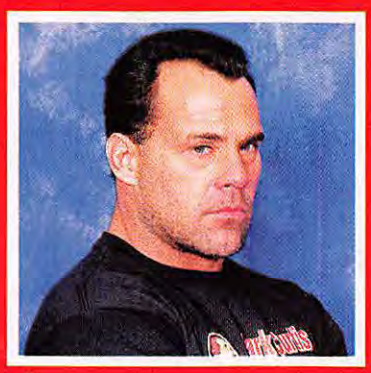
*—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, GA*

**Ted Turner** and Time Warner will finally sell WCW to an old folks' home, since a lot of the people there will soon be in one ... **Vince Russo** will go crawling back to **Vince McMahon**, only to have **Jeff Hardy** knock him over with a swanton bomb from the top of WWF headquarters ... **Miss Hancock** will give birth to a foot (another original idea) ... **Kaientai** will get finally a much-deserved push ... WCW will continue to make the U.S. hate Canada (another original idea) ... **Kurt Angle** will defend the WWF World title against **Hulk Hogan** at WrestleMania ... **Rob Van Dam** will win the ECW World heavyweight title en route to the longest reign in company history ... **Elton John** will get jealous of **Edge** and **Christian** because of the huge sunglasses they wear and take them on at SummerSlam in a goggles, glasses, and shades match.

*—Richard Caron, Grafton, MA*







WCW will still try to be like the WWF—and fail miserably ... ECW will find a new TV home on PBS and still be better than WCW ... **The Rock** will make up some new catchphrases ... **Test** and **Trish Stratus** will get engaged, but on the big day, she'll leave him for **Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley** ... **The Undertaker** will come to ringside and call out his half-brother, **Kane**. Kane will come to the ring, and a brawl will ensue. Kane will then be unmasked and revealed to be—**Vince McMahon**, who will scream maniacally, "It was me all along, 'Taker!" Later, 'Taker will jump on his bike and ride for another eight months to "clear his head" and decide if he should return as **Black Plaque**, **Cavity Creep**, or **Ginger Vitis** ... **Chris Benoit** will claim to have a "big little surprise" for **Chris Jericho** when they fight for the number-one contender spot. When they have their match, things will look good for Y2J until Benoit reveals his "big little surprise." Benoit will open his mouth, and **Dean Malenko** will jump out of the gap between his teeth and attack Jericho, who will then lose the match ... After becoming the number-one contender to the WWF title, Chris Benoit will take on The Rock in a series of classic matches that Benoit will always win, only to see WWF Commissioner **Mick Foley** keep reversing the decisions. Demanding justice, Benoit will ask for a special referee, and Foley will assign **"Stone-Cold" Steve Austin**. The match will be a classic, but Austin will stun both men, pin both, make a three-count, and announce himself as the new WWF champ!

*—Rob Becker, Columbus, OH*

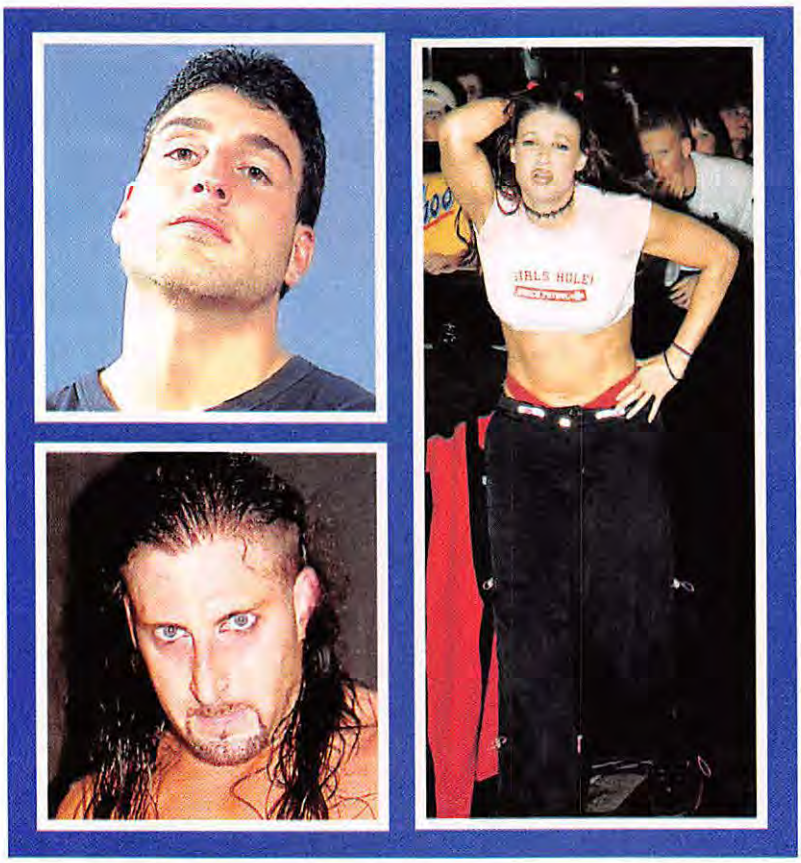
WCW will close up shop, and **Vince McMahon** will hire some of the out-of-work wrestlers ... **Vince Russo** will be brought back to the WWF as **Brooklyn Brawler 2000** and will wrestle against **The Acolytes** every week on *Raw* ... **Lex Luger** will be put back on the "Lex Express," and McMahon will send it straight off a cliff this time ... **Hulk Hogan** and **Kevin Nash** will replace **Pat Patterson** and **Gerald Brisco** as McMahon's stooges ... Nash will lay down for Hogan so Hogan can be the one to get McMahon's coffee. Eventually, though, Hogan will screw this up and will *finally* retire.

*—KiddChaz@aol.com*

**Chris Benoit** will finally win the WWF World title ... **Rob Van Dam** will win the ECW World title ... **Tom Arnold** will win the WCW World title ... **Vince Russo** will leave WCW and all of wrestling ... **John Kronus** will reunite with **Perry Saturn** in the WWF, and the two of them will dominate the tag team scene ... Going to the WWF will be **Scott Hall**, **Kevin Nash**, **"Diamond" Dallas Page**, and **Rob Van Dam** ... XPW will fold ... **Jeff Hardy** will retire.

*—frissore@juno.com*

**Chris Jericho**, **Chris Benoit**, **Rikishi**, and **Billy Gunn** will all taste WWF World title gold this year ... Same for **Scott Steiner** and **Lance Storm** in WCW ... As well as **Rob Van Dam** in ECW ... WCW will continue to make itself look bad ... ECW will surpass WCW and become the number-two promotion in the U.S., behind only the WWF ... **Ric Flair** and **Hulk Hogan** will return to active wrestling, then retire again in the next 12 months ... **Lo-Down** and **T & A** will disband, but no one will notice or care ... WCW will be completely overhauled again ... **DeGeneration X** will re-form just one more time ... **Brock Lesnar** will be a big star in the WWF ... More big names from WCW will migrate to the WWF ... More WCW firees will migrate to ECW ... **Ken Shamrock** will return to active competition ... The WCW TV title and women's title will be reinstated again ... The WWF light heavyweight title will continue to be wasted ... **Jushin Liger** will make an impact in a major U.S. promotion ... Programs featuring Lucha Libre and *puroresu* will become readily available in the U.S. ... Sadly, **The Undertaker** will retire ... **The Rock**, **Triple-H**, **Kurt Angle**, **Kane**, **"Stone-Cold" Steve Austin**, and **The Big Show** will all be on top in the WWF ... **Sting**, **Jeff Jarrett**, **Bill Goldberg**, and **Booker T** will rule WCW ... **Jerry Lynn**, **Tommy Dreamer**, **The Sandman**, and **Justin Credible** will stay at the top of



ECW ... **Too Cool, The Hardy Boyz, The Dudley Boyz, Kronic, Mark Jindrak** and **Sean O'Haire, Danny Doring** and **Roadkill**, and **Little Guido Maritato** and **Tony Mamaluke** will remain the premier American tag teams ... **Elix Skipper** and **Kwee-Wee** will join **The Natural Born Thrillers** ... Eventually, all the Thrillers will split, but not all will reach stardom ... Finally, **Dennis Rodman** will win the WCW World title.

*—msatrang@britton.tie.net*

**Triple-H** will become the spokesman for Pedigree dog food ... **Steve Austin** will win the WWF World title at WrestleMania ... Secret photos will reveal that before **Bill Goldberg** became known as "Da Man," he was known as "Da Woman" ... **Sting** will retire ... **The Rock** will come to the ring on *Smackdown*, get cheered wildly, make a few bizarre remarks about either a llama or monkey's anus, then go on to lose that night's match due to outside interference ... **Chris Jericho** will become the WWF's premier rulebreaker, while **Kurt Angle** will eventually turn fan favorite ... **Mike Awesome** will become WCW World champion by beating **Jeff Jarrett** at Starrcade ... **Vince Russo** will be humiliated on TV when it's revealed he actually hails from New Jersey ... **Tazz** will introduce two of his cousins to the WWF: **Thug Life Ned** and **Thug Life Fred** ... **Trish Stratus** will be featured in *Playboy* ... **Scott Steiner** will pop when someone accidentally sticks him with a pin ... **David Flair** will go on to great success by carving out a niche for himself in the hardcore division a la **Mick Foley** ... **Steve Blackman** and **Chris Benoit** will feud over who's more boring ... **"Diamond" Dallas Page, Rhino, Dawn Marie**, and **Billy Kidman** will all arrive in the WWF ... **The Filthy Animals** will change their name to **Does Anybody Care That We're Still Here?** ... Arriving in WCW will be **Rena Mero, Road Dogg**, and **Justin Credible**.

*—Jason Piechota, Pottstown, PA*

**Shawn Stasiak** will beat **Kanyon** for the WCW World title, and no one will care ... **The Rock** will win the WWF World title five times in the span of two months ... **Chris Benoit** and **Mick Foley** will get their teeth fixed ... **Kevin Nash** will leave WCW and retire; no one will notice ... **Hulk Hogan** will be paid to quit WCW after he makes a whole *Nitro* audience fall asleep during his match ... In an attempt to get big ratings, WCW will have a mystery assailant run over **Bill Goldberg** with a golf cart ... **Howard Stern** will accept **Jimmy Hart's** challenge and defeat him with the people's elbow ... **Kane** will lose his mask in a mask vs. mask match against **Naked Guy Midian** ... **Lita** will regain the WWF women's title by beating **Molly Holly** in a Match of the Year candidate ... Chris Benoit will finally win the WWF title by beating The Rock ... **Little Louie** will come out of retirement and challenge **Hank The Angry Drunken Dwarf** in a match for the WCW mighty midget championship.

*—Kris J. Klick, Womelsdorf, PA*

**Scott Hall** will outdrink **The Sandman** at the first-ever ECW Extreme Beer-o-Thon ... **Eric Bischoff** will ruin *Battledome* just like he ruined WCW ... **Kevin Nash** will win the WCW World title a record 17 times in the year and not actually wrestle in one match ... **Crowbar** will get through the whole year without actually using a crowbar ... **Mark Jindrak** & **Sean O'Haire** will become **The New Road Warriors**. When that fails to get them over, they'll become **The New Fabulous Ones**. When that fails to get them over, they'll become **The New Rock 'n' Roll Express.** When that fails to get them over ... The ***Nitro* Girls** will become a **Spice Girls**-type group. They'll bomb ... **Meng** will return to the WWF and reign over the hardcore division ... **Bret Hart** will appear in **Vince McMahon's** shower, declare the last four years "just a dream," and go on to defeat **The Rock** for the WWF title ... **Gillberg** will return to the WWF as **Golly Holly** ... **Ken Shamrock** won't wrestle. No one will care ... **Leia Meow** will elope with **Mark Madden** ... **Doink** will lead a retro resurgence in WCW. The WWF will allow this use of a trademarked character because no one cares about Doink ... *PWI's* **Queen Brandi** will pose nude for *Perfect 10* ... More states will crack down on extreme wrestling ... **Boogie Woogie Brown** will eat his weight in hoagies ... **Jim Cornette** and **Mark Madden** will have it out in a barbed-wire flaming egos cage match at a Dairy Queen in Tennessee ... The following call will be made: "Vince, it's Vince R. Look, I did what you wanted. I destroyed WCW, and now Kevin and Scott and I are ready to come back. What do you mean no? Vince! What are you trying to do to me? Me go to hell? No, *you* go to hell! I'm Vince Russo, you S.O.B.! I made you! I made *you!"* ... **Jim Duggan** will want his country back ... **Major Gunns** will learn how to spell "country" ... Vince McMahon's XFL will buy out the CFL, then fold after a year just to spite Bret Hart ... **Woman** will return to manage **Chris Benoit** in the WWF ... **Kevin Sullivan** will return to WCW to manage a new **Dungeon of Doom** ... **Brutus Beefcake** will re-enter WCW to manage **The Boogie Knights**. He'll be slightly more effective as their manager than the disco duck was.

*—Jim Finch, Cogan Station, PA* □

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Belt and strap are exact thickness and plates are 2 MM thick.
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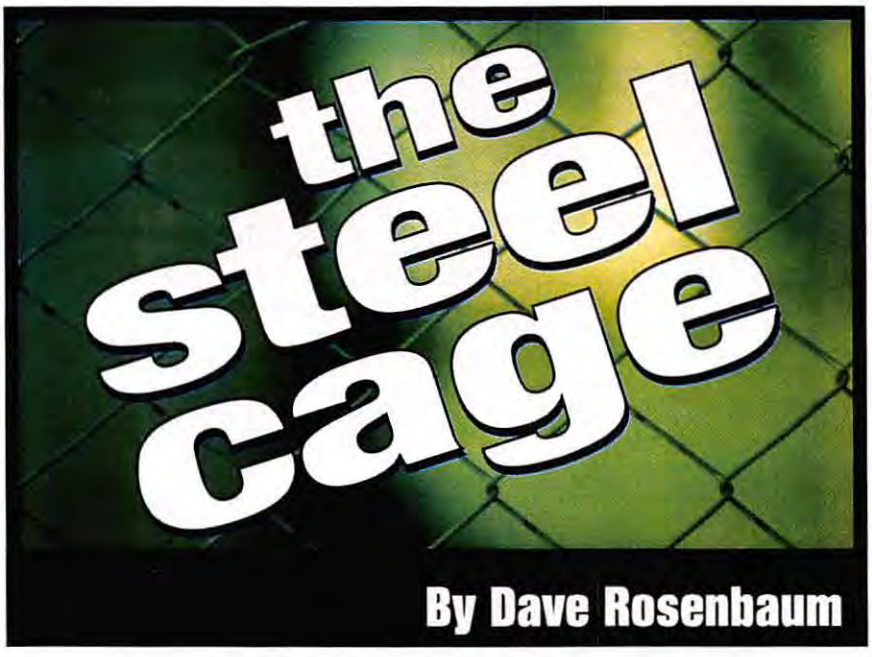
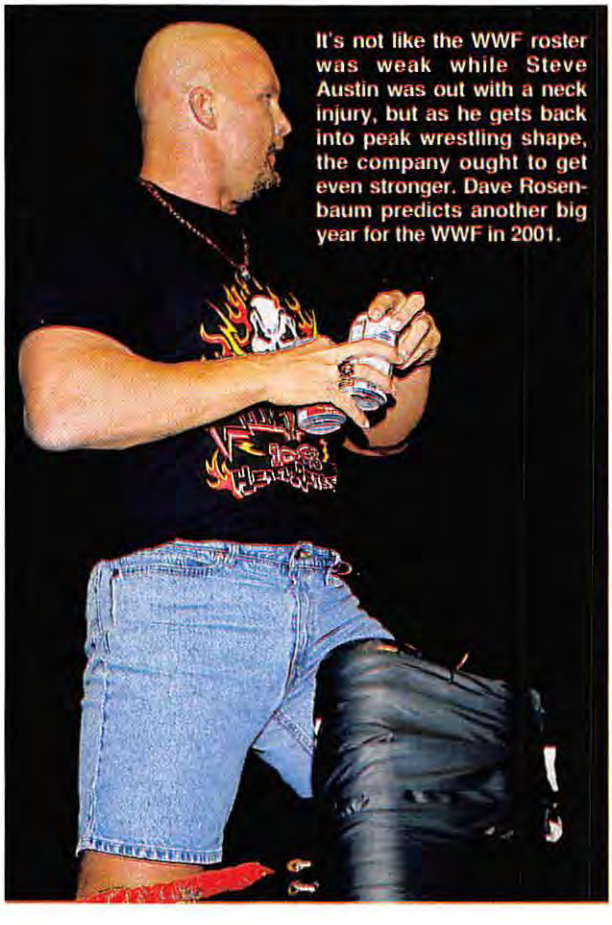



***WRAPPING THINGS UP.*** This is the year-end issue of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, so in keeping with the year-end theme, here's a look at one major piece of year-end news, a little speculation, and a brief look ahead.


It's not like the WWF roster was weak while Steve Austin was out with a neck injury, but as he gets back into peak wrestling shape, the company ought to get even stronger. Dave Rosenbaum predicts another big year for the WWF in 2001.

* * *

**World Wrestling Federation Entertainment Inc. reports a 38 percent jump in second-quarter profits for 2000 and an increase in revenues of 27 percent.** And there, folks, is the state of the company in one simple sentence: Things are going very well in the WWF.

"The results for the quarter once again demonstrate the strength of the WWF brand and our ability to deliver a unique form of destination programming to a targeted demographic," said WWF CEO Linda McMahon.

And now, with the return of Steve Austin, the WWF should be even stronger.

Anyone who has been following the business for a long time knows that wrestling tends to go through occasional boom periods, which are inevitably followed by down periods. This up period, which started in mid-1996 with the emergence of the New World Order in WCW, is going on five years, making it one of the longest ever. A pessimist (that's me) might say the good times have to end eventually. An optimistic can point to some very good reasons why this boom period is different from any other:

1. The WWF's previous peak period, in the mid-1980s, was built on the raging popularity of Hulk Hogan. This boom period is based on the popularity of several wrestlers, including The Rock, Austin, Triple-H, Mankind, and Kurt Angle, with new stars emerging regularly.

2. Even in the mid-1980s, when wrestling became extremely popular, the sport was considered fringe entertainment. Now, with wrestlers on the cover of *TV Guide* and posed nude inside *Playboy*, appearances on TV talk shows, and highly rated weekly programs on TNN, wrestling has become a mainstream form of entertainment.

3. Vince McMahon is so afraid of the terrible early-1990s happening again that he'll never stop working to make sure that the WWF stays on top.

Undoubtedly, some people will get sick of wrestling, and ratings will slide a bit (they already have since the WWF moved to TNN), but the WWF is a good bet to remain strong through 2001, and a few years beyond.

**Just a question: What if there was only one major federation?** This is an interesting question to consider. I've taken it for granted that competition is good everywhere, and that one of the reasons for wrestling's current boom period is that the WWF felt the heat from WCW (after Ted Turner and Time Warner felt the heat from the WWF for many years). Both federations wanted to be number one, so they battled like crazy to get there. As a result, the quality of the product they turned out improved, and fans benefited.

Now, you might say, "Well, there's only one Major League Baseball, and there's only one National Football League, and there's nothing wrong with that, right?" Well, not right. Would Major League Baseball continue to play four-hour games and

start World Series games at 8:30 at night on weekdays if another league of equal quality was doing a better job serving the fans? Definitely not. Major League Baseball is arrogant because MLB has no competition.

Then, you might say, "Isn't Vince McMahon arrogant?" Yes, Vince McMahon is very arrogant, but the idea of being number two again must scare him half to death. Vince McMahon's arrogance doubles, triples, even quadruples if he's the only game in town.

Another argument in favor of one major federation: one world champion.

I'm not buying that argument, because wrestling is not the same as baseball, football, or basketball. It's a different kind of sport (notice how MLB doesn't refer to itself as sports entertainment).

So, the final question: Does Vince McMahon want to be the only game in town?

Of course he does. Go all the way back to 1982, when McMahon bought the federation from his father. If McMahon's plan wasn't national dominance, he wouldn't have torn down geographical barriers and promoted the WWF in areas where it was previously off-limits (unofficially at least). Vince McMahon has wanted to be the only game in town for the last 19 years.

If he gets his wish, it'll be good for him, and bad for the rest of us.

**Okay, so what's next?** Glad you asked. Here are a few predictions for the year 2001:

1. "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin will regain the WWF World title.

2. Triple-H will break up with Stephanie McMahon and go back to Chyna. I mean the woman, not the country (that's China, of course).

3. Lex Luger will not win the WCW World title.

4. Bill Goldberg will hold the WCW World title for most of the year.

5. Shawn Michaels will return to the ring, only to quit again.

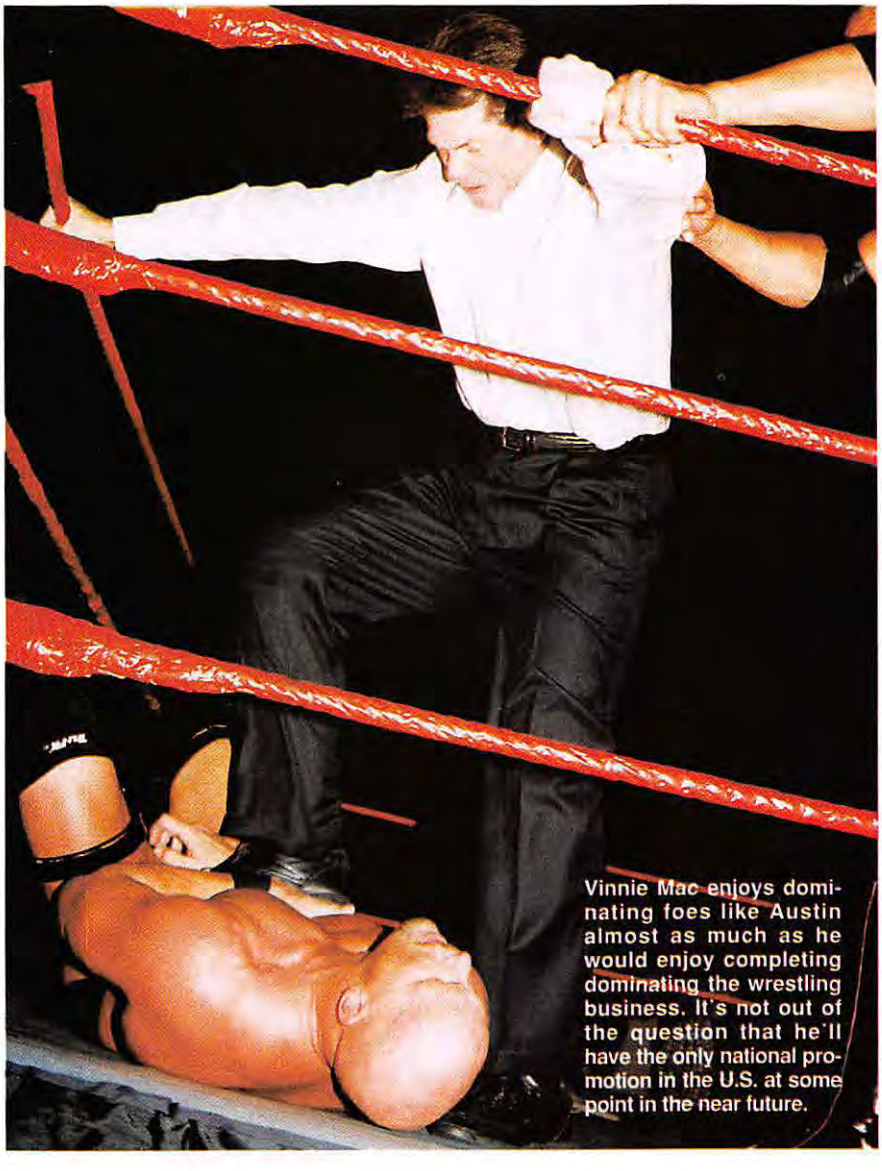
6. Bret Hart will return to the ring, only to quit again.

7. Kurt Angle will become a fan favorite.

8. Somehow, the NWO will re-emerge as a force in WCW.

9. Chris Jericho will not become a consistent main-event wrestler in the WWF.

10. Scott Hall will not return, though WCW fans will continue to be led to believe that he might. □



Vinnie Mac enjoys dominating foes like Austin almost as much as he would enjoy completing dominating the wrestling business. It's not out of the question that he'll have the only national promotion in the U.S. at some point in the near future.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# win lose or draw

**By Harry Burkett**

THE NEXT TIME Rich Talon meets Goliath in the squared circle, there's a good chance they'll be arrested. Now, we all know it takes a horrendous crime to be arrested in pro wrestling. Rikishi ran over Steve Austin and still has a driver's license. Triple-H hits people with sledgehammers. Scott Steiner whacks heads with lead pipes. So one would think Rich Talon and Goliath are guilty of attempted homicide or something even worse.

Actually, no. Richard Skelly (a.k.a. "Rich Talon") and Gregory Retkowski (a.k.a. "Goliath") were guilty of wrestling in someone's backyard.

Backyard wrestling is a nationwide phenomenon. It's no surprise that some of the fans who watch wrestling on television want to participate themselves. They want to learn the moves, develop characters, and, in some cases, organize their own unofficial organizations.

As far as the state of Maryland is concerned, as well as many other states across the U.S., backyard wrestling is illegal. According to the *Baltimore Sun*, five adults and two juveniles were recently charged with "either promoting or participating in unauthorized backyard wrestling matches."

They were accused of violating regulations set by the Maryland State Athletic Commission that are intended to prevent injuries, confirmed Cpl. Patrick Fisher, a criminal investigator with the Carroll County Sheriff's Department. The misdemeanor charges carry a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a $2,000 fine. The hearing is pending.

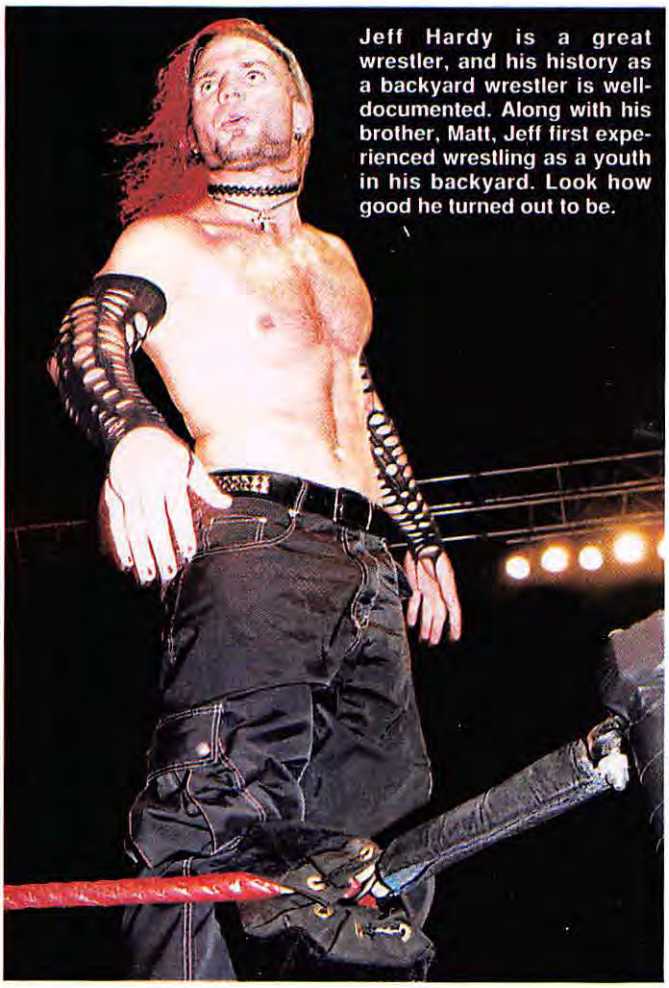
The *Baltimore Sun* went on to report that "amateur and informal" matches were held in an outdoor ring behind a family home in Sykesville, Maryland, where the wrestlers, their families, and a few neighbors gathered to watch. Approximately 15 boys, ages 15 to 18, participated in the group called "Ground-Breaking Wrestling."

David P. Daggett, senior state's attorney for Carroll County, said the adults and juveniles charged were also guilty of violating state business regulations that prohibit unlicensed persons from participating in athletic contests.

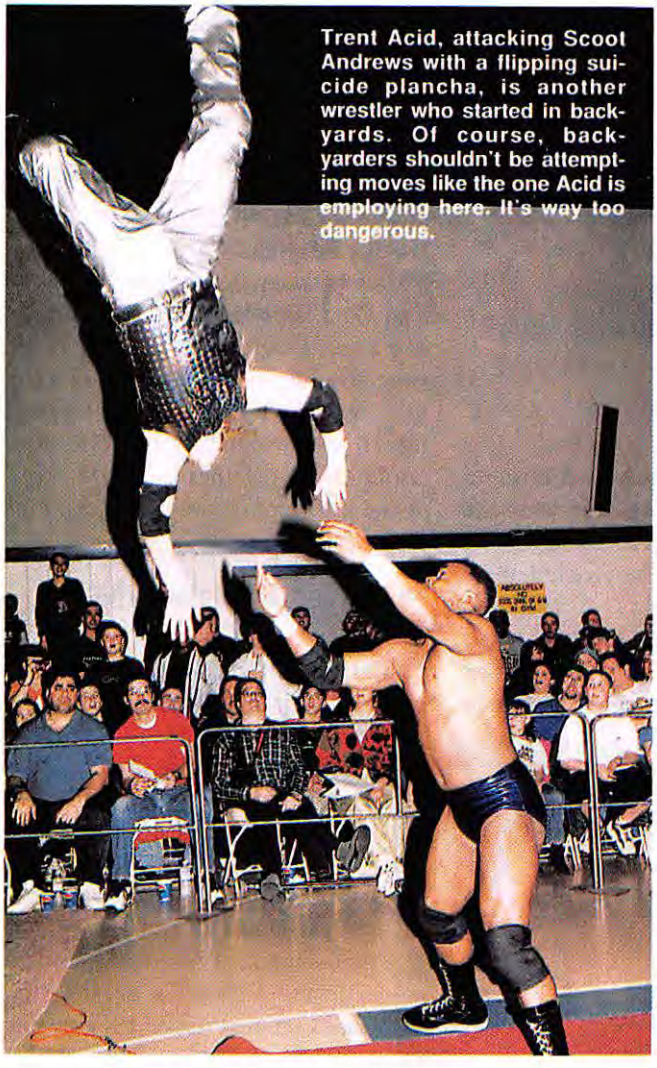
I don't get it. In some states, athletic commissions don't even have jurisdiction over pro wrestling because it is considered "sports entertainment" rather than legitimate sport. Here, the senior state's attorney for Carroll County is labeling it an "athletic contest." Which is it?

My understanding is that most backyard wrestlers do not compete in athletic contests to determine winners and losers. They are merely play-acting, trying their best to impersonate professional wrestlers.

Where does one draw the line? If there's a concerted effort to eliminate backyard wrestling, why aren't state officials going after every backyard game of basketball or football played in Maryland? What constitutes an "organized" group? Having a game at the same time every week? Having a game at the same location every week? Or maybe state officials will step in when they wear jerseys all the same color. And unless



Jeff Hardy is a great wrestler, and his history as a backyard wrestler is well-documented. Along with his brother, Matt, Jeff first experienced wrestling as a youth in his backyard. Look how good he turned out to be.



Trent Acid, attacking Scoot Andrews with a flipping suicide plancha, is another wrestler who started in backyards. Of course, backyarders shouldn't be attempting moves like the one Acid is employing here. It's way too dangerous.

someone is charging admission to these backyard events, how can anyone say this is a violation of state business law?

The issue of whether people have the right to stage backyard wrestling events in the privacy of their own backyard is separate from the issue of whether it's safe. Since I don't have any kids, I'm not in a position to judge whether I'd allow them to participate. But if these kids are participating with their parents' full knowledge and consent, what's the problem? In the Maryland case, the parents were not only aware of the backyard activities, they were actual spectators at the matches.

I don't think backyard wrestling is suitable for every child, and I think parents must judge whether it's appropriate on an individual basis. They must decide if their child is mature enough to participate. Is the child getting into the ring to really hurt someone? Will they get caught up in the heat of the moment and start kicking someone's teeth out? That would be inappropriate behavior and should be condemned.

Parents must also consider the environment. What kind of kids will their child be wrestling? Are the other participants likely to cause harm to the child?

Another consideration is the style of wrestling. Will the participants be attempting suicide planchas that could easily result in broken necks or severed spinal cords? Will children try to wrestle beyond their ability? In other words, will the roly-poly fat kid attempt a springboard moonsault? Let's hope not.

Parents should also deem extreme wrestling inappropriate. There are horror stories of kids scarring their heads with light bulbs or putting each other through tables. If these events are going to take place, there must be common-sense supervision. By the same token, if adults over 18 want to go through tables or bleed all over the place, it's their prerogative.

The Maryland State Athletic Commission has a history of overreaching in terms of its regulation of pro wrestling. And, no, I'm not talking about that angle from the '88 Great American Bash in which a state athletic commissioner stopped a World title match because Lex Luger had a slight cut on his forehead, even though NWA champ Ric Flair was screaming for mercy in Luger's torture rack. I'm talking about real, present-day stuff.

Some wrestlers affiliated with Maryland Championship Wrestling have long complained that state athletic commission standards are too stringent. Competitors can't use chairs, can't use tables, and under no circumstances can they bleed—although the WWF and WCW often violate the same rules. In the case of those promotions, the violations are often ignored or the fines are considered a small price to pay when compared to the huge number of tickets they're selling. To smaller groups, a huge fine imposed by an athletic commission can mean promotional death.

Somehow, athletic commissions must strike a balance between recreational wrestling and "for profit" wrestling. Unless that distinction is made, the athletic commissions are overstepping their bounds.

From a selfish wrestling fan point of view, where will kids nourish their desire to be pro wrestlers, if not in their backyard? The Hardy Boyz, Mike Quackenbush, and Trent Acid come to mind when I think of wrestlers who got their start in backyards. Scotty Too Hotty began training in his mother's garage at the age of 15. The examples are endless. Should their parents have been fined or imprisoned? Of course not.

It's one thing to regulate a show at the Baltimore Arena. Regulating what happens in the privacy of one's backyard is a different matter. Where does it stop? Maryland law also requires children under age 18 to wear protective helmets while riding their bicycles, or their parents are subject to fines. How many kids, instead of wearing those goofy protective helmets, now lock themselves in their bedrooms and play video games?

Some people place such a premium on protecting children that they're willing to give away a few liberties. I think a free society is more important, even if there are a few broken bones. □

# THE STRAIGHT SHOOTER

**By Dan Murphy**

EVER SINCE I was in my early teens, I've looked forward to braving the snow and getting to the newsstand to pick up a copy of the year-end edition of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED. Like watching *Emmet Otter's Jug Band Christmas* and *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* back-to-back on Christmas Eve, thumbing through the year-end issue has always been a venerable end-of-year tradition. The Achievement Awards, the readers' Unofficial Officials, the Year in Review—what better way to look back on the greatest moments and achievements of the past year than via the magazine you're holding in your hands, right?

And now that you've done that, it's time to remember the stuff you'd rather forget.

There were plenty of great moments in 2000. There was the Hardys-Edge and Christian feud. The battles between Jerry Lynn and Rob Van Dam, Jeff Jarrett and Booker T, and Super Crazy and Yoshihiro Tajiri were absolute mat classics. You have the yin; here's my list of the yang, the 10 worst moments of 2000. Remember, all of this *actually happened* this year (I couldn't make this stuff up):

**Mae Young and Mark Henry made for one of the more, well, odd couples in wrestling in 2000. It's safe to say Dan Murphy hopes they don't rekindle their romance in 2001.**

### 10. THE RETURN OF THE LITTLE PEOPLE

Midgets returned to wrestling in a big way. First there was the WrestleMania debut of Head Cheese's costumed mascot. Then Kid Rock's diminutive sidekick, Joe C. (who, sadly, has since died), cost Edge and Christian the WWF tag title on *Raw*. There were the midget Dudleys and Hardys. A short time later (get it ... short?), affirmed 1980s TV personality Gary Coleman started hanging out with affirmed "'70s Guy" Mike Awesome. Gary ended up wearing a Jarrett guitar necklace for his efforts. Finally, there was Howard Stern hanger-on Beetlejuice, who ended the comedy-of-errors "San Francisco 49ers" match on *Nitro* by grabbing Jarrett by the ... *um,* grapefruits ... and handing Booker T the match. By the way, there is no truth to the rumor Jarrett asked King Kong Bundy to second him in subsequent matches.

### 9. WHO LET THE PUPPIES OUT? *WOOF! WOOF!*

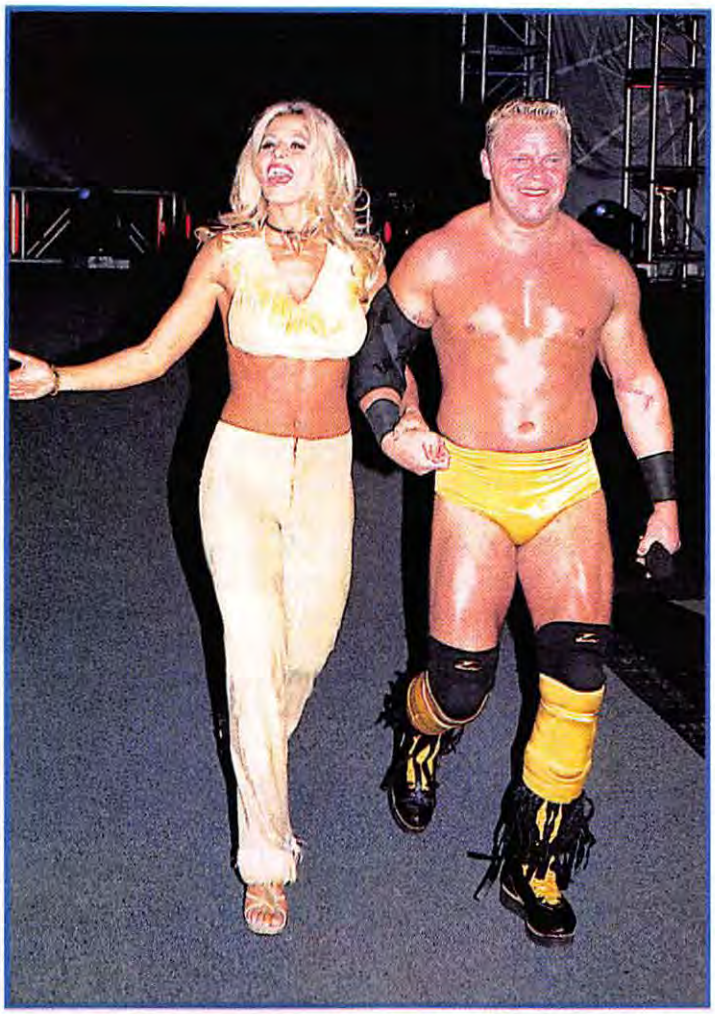
Royal Rumble. Bikini contest. Jacquelyn, Terri, Ivory, B.B.—and we get Mae Young?! I don't care if we saw a prosthesis or not (though I hope to God it wasn't the real thing)—*why?!* Mae's bit of exhibitionism slowed sex drives around the country.

### 8. VIAGRA ON A POLE (HEE-HEE)

Maybe Shane Douglas's libido never recovered from the Royal Rumble. Shane's match against Billy Kidman was the pinnacle of a feud that touched on Shane's impotence, Tori's chubby days, PG-rated sex tapes, and a Viagra-fueled *Nitro* Girl romp that brought Reno into WCW. Not "The Franchise's" finest hour.

### 7. UP IN SMOKE

It may not have happened in front of 20,000 fans, but The Sinister Minister's "constructive criticism" of my interviewing style (as seen in the February 2001 edition) singed my eyebrows and cost me a notebook. At least Mikey Whipwreck tossed the fireball at the notebook and not at your humble narrator. Despite the fiery inconvenience, here's wishing the Minister a speedy recovery from the injuries he received at November to Remember.



**Think maybe we got to know a little too much about Shane Douglas and Torrie Wilson last year? The Murph would certainly prefer to forget about their feud with Billy Kidman.**

### 6. TURNING ... CANADIAN?

I understand Jim Duggan was frustrated that a lot of fans gave up on him after all his years of defending the honor of the U.S. of A., but how can he suddenly *become* Canadian? Is he from Glens Falls, Saskatchewan, now? And even if Duggan did find a way to hail from Canada, how did Major Gunns manage to do it? As far as I know, changing your bikini top isn't grounds for a change of citizenship (though perhaps it should be).

### 5. GLOW PART II

Not enough T & A in your diet? Can David McClain (yes, the same guy who brought you the Gorgeous Ladies of Wrestling) interest you in Wendy Wheels, The Disciplinarian, cheerleader Patti Pep, champion Terri Gold, and an all-new Farmer's Daughter? There are plenty of bodyscissors in this new Women of Wrestling promotion, and "Stagger" Lee Marshall is on board, but it just isn't the same without federation physicians Dr. Fiel and Dr. Groppe. Although, if Mr. McClain needs a guest referee, The Murph might be available.

### 4. *BATTLEDOME?*

"Diamond" Dallas Page finally returned and cut a great promo about how great it was to be back in WCW. After talking about the chills that ran up and down his spine when he challenged Booker T for the title at a house show, DDP called out the *Battledome* warriors, who tried to storm the ring but were strong-armed away by Doug Dellinger and arena security. The NWO they ain't. Hell, the American Gladiators they ain't.

### 3. "I'M GLAD YOUR DADDY'S DEAD"

The Big Bossman coffin-hijacking at The Big Show's dad's funeral narrowly edged out the Sting/Vampiro graveyard match in terms of death-related bad taste. The image of The Big Show riding a casket like a surfboard as it was towed away by the Bossman's modified Bluesmobile was absolutely the most surreal sight of 2000.

### 2. A BOUNCING BABY HAND

Mae Young makes her second appearance on this list with her bizarre "pregnancy." Viewers were glued to their sets as they watched seventysomething Mae go through labor and give birth to ... a rubber hand. Thankfully, the WWF seems to have forgotten this ever happened. We're still trying.

And now for number one ...

### 1. NOT EVEN A BIG-TIME ACTOR

Lou Thesz. Ric Flair. Sting. Hulk Hogan. David Arquette—*ugh!* This was, without a doubt, the most disturbing development of 2000. For God's sake, at least Tiny Lister *looked* like a wrestler! I hope this complete embarrassment, which made a mockery of the WCW World title, *will* be remembered by promoters every time they even *think* about bringing in another pseudo-celebrity to "wrestle." Guys, it didn't get you ratings, it didn't give you that much mainstream publicity, and it reflected poorly on your entire promotion.

I can't wait to see what atrocities 2001 has to offer. □

# THE BUSINESS PAGE

**By Harry Burkett**

***Downward spiral ...*** Is professional wrestling headed into a down cycle? Such a proposition may seem laughable with the WWF worth about $1.1-billion, wrestlers regularly gracing the cover of *TV Guide*, and the McMahon conglomerate expanding into pro football, but there are signs of declining interest. Everyone knows about WCW's down cycle brought on by inner turmoil and a creative drought. ECW's exile from a national cable home has removed it from prominence—at least temporarily. The WWF's declining numbers, however, could represent a more fundamental change in fan interest.

Consider the Monday night ratings. Within two months, the average overall rating for *Raw* dropped from an average of 6.0 to 5.0. There are a few outside factors, including a smaller youth audience due to the school year and, in November, extensive coverage of the presidential election and Florida recount on 24-hour news channels.

But there are other indicators. WWF house shows aren't selling out as they once did, and host arenas for *Raw, Smackdown,* and pay-per-views are sometimes slightly less than full.

It isn't as if the WWF isn't trying. Vince McMahon's return on November 6 had a negligible effect, with *Raw* scoring an overall rating of 5.1. *Raw* scored 5.0 in the other three weeks during the most recent four-week period.

While wrestling could be on the down cycle of a phenomenal growth period, there's no reason to think it will slip into the doldrums of the early-1990s. Wrestling has grown a great deal, both financially and creatively. The Monday night shows have become a tradition in many households. Neither the WWF nor WCW has to worry about local television stations relegating syndicated wrestling programs to the wee hours of the morning.

The cyclical nature of wrestling can be compared to the U.S. economy. It can no longer be measured by the old cyclical standards of "boom and bust periods." As high-tech industries have forever changed the economy—replacing severe recessions with minor corrections—cable-television has revolutionized the wrestling landscape. The floor of the down cycle—at which wrestling would reach its lowest point—is higher than ever. The WWF should be grateful that its attempt to buy WCW fell through. An overextension at this time would be foolhardy.

As Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan raises or lowers interest rates to tweak the economy, WWF Chairman Vince McMahon has the power to create new stars and develop fresh storylines to generate interest. Look for attempts in both those directions before WrestleMania rolls around.

***The scalpers will be busy ...*** Here's evidence that wrestling remains healthy: More than 52,000 tickets were sold four months before WrestleMania XVII, to be held April 1 at the Reliant Astrodome in Houston. The pay-per-view is expected to be one of the most profitable wrestling events ever. The Axxess Fan Festival will be part of a jam-packed WrestleMania weekend.

"For each of the last 16

**Is Vince McMahon worried that the popularity of the WWF and wrestling in general is starting to roll downhill? Probably not. WrestleMania XVII looks like it will be the highest-grossing wrestling event in U.S. history.**

years, WrestleMania has continuously proven to be one of the greatest live-event spectaculars in the entertainment industry," said Stuart Snyder, president and COO of WWFE. "This year, our great fans in Houston, as well as fans from all over the world, will make WrestleMania XVII another huge success."

***Sponsors jumping to the XFL ...*** Corporate giants such as Anheuser-Busch and Quaker State Motor Oil will target the elusive 12-to-24-year-old male audience in which Vince McMahon specializes, reported the November 24 *Washington Post.* What is the lure? *Raw's* success against *Monday Night Football* for one thing. The WWF outdrew the NFL in that demographic group by 47 percent in the Nielsen ratings.

NBC Sports President Dick Ebersol, who co-produced *Saturday Night's Main Event* with McMahon from 1985 to 1991, considers the XFL the first chance for a network to dominate Saturday night television in nearly 10 years.

"The most important thing is that no network has had any success in Saturday night prime time since *The Golden Girls* went away in the early-'90s," he said. "In the last television season, no network averaged a 5 rating." Currently, the XFL is projecting ratings in the 4.0 to 4.5 range.

*Sports Illustrated* reported that NBC has rejected a request from its West Coast affiliates to air the games on tape delay so as not to preempt local news. With hopes of a strong XFL lead-in, NBC might ask those Pacific Time Zone affiliates to run *Saturday Night Live* in prime time, rather than on tape at 11:30 p.m.

***When wrestling, acting, and governing isn't enough ...*** What is a bored soul like Jesse Ventura to do? "The Body Politic" will don the headphones for the XFL and work for Vince McMahon yet again. Ventura will be a color commentator for the XFL's 10-game season.

Ventura may be the busiest governor in Minnesota history. Unfortunately for Minnesotans, much of his time has been spent on extracurricular activities, such as writing two books, selling products with his likeness, embarking on promotional tours, making a cameo appearance on *The Young And The Restless,* and refereeing the main event at SummerSlam '99.

According to the November 27 edition of the *Philadelphia Inquirer,* some of Ventura's proceeds have been donated to charity. But the remainder—estimated to be in the millions—went directly into his bank account. Critics say Ventura shouldn't distract himself with weekly announcing duties at the same time that legislative session will be underway.

With a 71 percent approval rating, Ventura isn't too worried about critics.

**Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura might look a bit dumbfounded here, but "The Body" knew exactly what he was doing when he signed on to be an announcer with the XFL: cashing in.**

## WWFE STOCKWATCH

**(For the period of November 1-30)**

**30-Day High:** 16¼ on November 7
**30-Day Low:** 13 on November 21 and 22
**52-Week High:** 22½
**52-Week Low:** 9¾

WWFE stock hit a 30-day low on November 21, following news that second-quarter profits rose to $9.5-million. Sound strange? It was strange, considering that was an increase of 38 percent over the same time the previous year. One reason for the drop might be the overall drubbing the New York Stock Exchange took in November. It was a bad month for stocks all around, and the WWF, despite its fantastic earnings report, couldn't escape what some analysts were calling the beginning of the anticipated stock market correction.

According to Reuters, live event attendance and pay-per-view buys were responsible for most of the growth. Higher ticket prices and Steve Austin's comeback were key factors. In addition, branded merchandise revenue increased 10 percent and publishing revenue rose 17 percent. Increased expenses for the company were associated with the Owen Hart lawsuit settlement, staffing costs to support growth, and WWF New York.

"The results for the quarter once again demonstrate the strength of the WWF brand and our ability to deliver a unique form of destination programming to a targeted demographic," stated CEO Linda McMahon.

Late in the month, WWF stock rebounded slightly, perhaps due to the announcement of nine XFL games to be aired Sunday afternoons on TNN. The telecasts will begin on February 11, 2001, and continue through April 8. The premiere game will pit the New York/New Jersey Hitmen vs. the Birmingham Thunderbolts at Giants Stadium. The playoffs will air Saturday nights on NBC.

## THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS (Note: Each ratings point represents 750,000 households.)

**OCTOBER 30**

| | 1Q | 2Q | 3Q | 4Q | 5Q | 6Q | 7Q | 8Q | 9Q | 10Q | 11Q | 12Q | OR | Composite |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Raw* | — | — | — | — | 4.2 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 (4.6*) |
| *Nitro* | 2.5 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 2.0 | — | — | — | — | — | 2.5 (2.1*) |

*Head-to-head composite

*Tuesday Morning Quarterback:* Who's still the man? According to *Nitro's* ratings in 5Q, Ric Flair is still the man in WCW when it comes to producing high numbers. Typically, *Nitro's* ratings drop an entire point when *Raw* goes on the air, but not this week. CEO Flair's confrontation with Jeff Jarrett encouraged viewers to stick around while Chyna cut a promo on Eddie Guerrero on *Raw.* While the gap narrowed to only 1.5 in that segment, *Raw's* overall rating remained twice as high as *Nitro's.*

## THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

**NOVEMBER 6**

| | 1Q | 2Q | 3Q | 4Q | 5Q | 6Q | 7Q | 8Q | 9Q | 10Q | 11Q | 12Q | OR | Composite |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Raw* | — | — | — | — | 4.7 | 5.3 | 4.9 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 5.2 | 4.8 | 5.0 | — | 5.1 (5.1*) |
| *Nitro* | 2.4 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 1.9 | — | — | — | — | — | 2.5 (2.1*) |

*Tuesday Morning Quarterback:* Something's peculiar when the main event is the lowest-rated segment of a wrestling program. WCW World champion Booker T defended against Kevin Nash in the final segment of this week's *Nitro,* scoring only 1.9. Whether that's an indictment of Booker or Nash is for the fans to judge. Clearly, either Bill Goldberg or Scott Steiner belongs in every *Nitro* main event. *Raw's* opening segment remains its weakest. That suggests viewers would rather see matches than soap opera-style dialogue.

## THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

**NOVEMBER 13**

| | 1Q | 2Q | 3Q | 4Q | 5Q | 6Q | 7Q | 8Q | 9Q | 10Q | 11Q | 12Q | OR | Composite |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Raw* | — | — | — | — | 4.1 | 4.7 | 5.1 | 4.8 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 4.9 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.0 (4.7*) |
| *Nitro* | 2.4 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.5 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 2.1 | — | — | — | — | — | 2.6 (2.2*) |

*Tuesday Morning Quarterback:* The WWF may have wanted you to "Smackdown Your Vote," but did it expect George W. Bush and Al Gore to "smackdown" its ratings? Definitely not. *Raw's* ratings reached its lowest point of the last couple of years, and *Monday Night Football* was also down 2.2 points. The ratings for CNN, MSNBC, and Fox News Channel rose dramatically in the week after the presidential election and during the Florida recount. *Nitro's* numbers remained about the same, revealing that it attracts a diehard—or blindly loyal—audience.

## THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

**NOVEMBER 20**

| | 1Q | 2Q | 3Q | 4Q | 5Q | 6Q | 7Q | 8Q | 9Q | 10Q | 11Q | 12Q | OR | Composite |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Raw* | — | — | — | — | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 5.0 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 5.0 (4.8*) |
| *Nitro* | 2.1 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 1.9 | — | — | — | — | 2.0 | 2.3 (2.0*) |

*Tuesday Morning Quarterback:* It must be getting harder to sustain viewer interest through a two-hour wrestling program these days. At one time, *Raw's* numbers picked up at the end of *Nitro* and steadily increased through the second hour, culminating with a 7.0 in the overrun. *Raw* overruns have barely surpassed 5.0 in recent weeks. This week, "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin vs. Chris Benoit wasn't quite enough to keep people awake past their bedtime and, in the case of *Nitro,* the main event of Booker T vs. Lex Luger dropped to 1.9 near 10 p.m. Eastern time.

## OTHER NETWORK & CABLE SHOWS

### WWF

*Smackdown* (UPN): 4.7, 5.0, 4.9, 4.8 (broadcast ratings)
*Sunday Night Heat* (MTV): 2.2, 1.9, 2.6, 1.6
*Livewire* (TNN): 1.1, 1.1, 1.2, 1.1
*Superstars* (TNN): 1.2, 0.9, 1.1, 1.1

### WCW

*Thunder* (TBS): 1.9, 2.1, 2.1, 2.3

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## SPOTLIGHT CARD OF THE MONTH

**PALO ALTO**—Future Wrestling Alliance at the Citizens Fire Hall: **Mark Shrader** pinned **Ronnie Zukko** ... **High Voltage** & **Saboth** defeated **Marshal Law** & **Love Bug** ... **Rich Myers** beat **Gregory Martin** ... **Gabriella Leigh** & **Colleen** defeated **Candie** & **Drew Lazario** in an evening gown match ... **Qeenan Creed** & **Tommy Idol** beat **Bad Crew** ... **Reckless Youth** pinned **Twiggy Ramirez** ... **Mike Quackenbush, Don Montoya,** & **Dino Divine** defeated heavyweight champion **Jake Daniels, Danny Rose,** & **Adam Flash** in a steel cage elimination match; Quackenbush pinned Daniels to win the match and the FWA championship.
(11-18-00)
*—"Spotlight" photos by Timothy A. Walker*

## UNITED STATES

### ALABAMA

**BAYOU LA BATRE**—Ultimate Championship Wrestling at the Community Center: **Frank Smith** beat **Dan Delicious** ... **Minotaur** defeated **Scorpion** ... **Tommy Martinelli** beat **Raine Quapone** ... **Steve Southern** defeated **Midnight Rider** (substituting for injured UCW heavyweight champion **Al Savage**) to win the title ... **Joe Kane** & **Marcell Pringle** defeated UCW tag team champions **Chad Cheetum** & **Tony Sweatt** by disqualification when **Steve Southern** interfered (**Bob Armstrong** was the guest referee).
(11-11-00)

*—Ryan Halwell*

### CALIFORNIA

**ANTIOCH**—All Pro Wrestling at the Antioch Fairgrounds: **Dalip Singh** won a 14-man battle royal, last eliminating **Boom Boom Comini** ... **Boom Boom Comini** & **Ma'och** defeated **The Snott Brothers** ... **Kid Chrome** beat **Patrick O'Doul** ... **Super Destroyer 2000** beat **Dalip Singh** in a lumberjack match ... **The Kamikaze Kids** beat **The Ballard Brothers** ... Internet champion **Boyce LeGrande** beat **Vinny Massaro** ... Universal champion **Donovan Morgan** defeated **Robert Thompson.**
(11-25-00)

*—Edward L. Ruskin*

**SAN DIEGO**—WCWA Pro Wrestling at the Black Tiger Boxe Thai Gym: **Big Tony** defeated **Ricky Maivia** ... California champion **Kamikaze** defeated **The Masked Luchadore** ... **Frankie Dee** pinned **Latin Storm** ... **Ric** & **Vic Dynamite** defeated **Ricky Maivia** & **Mase** ... **Frankie Dee** won a battle royal to become the new WCWA heavyweight champion.
(11-05-00)

*—Anna Beech*

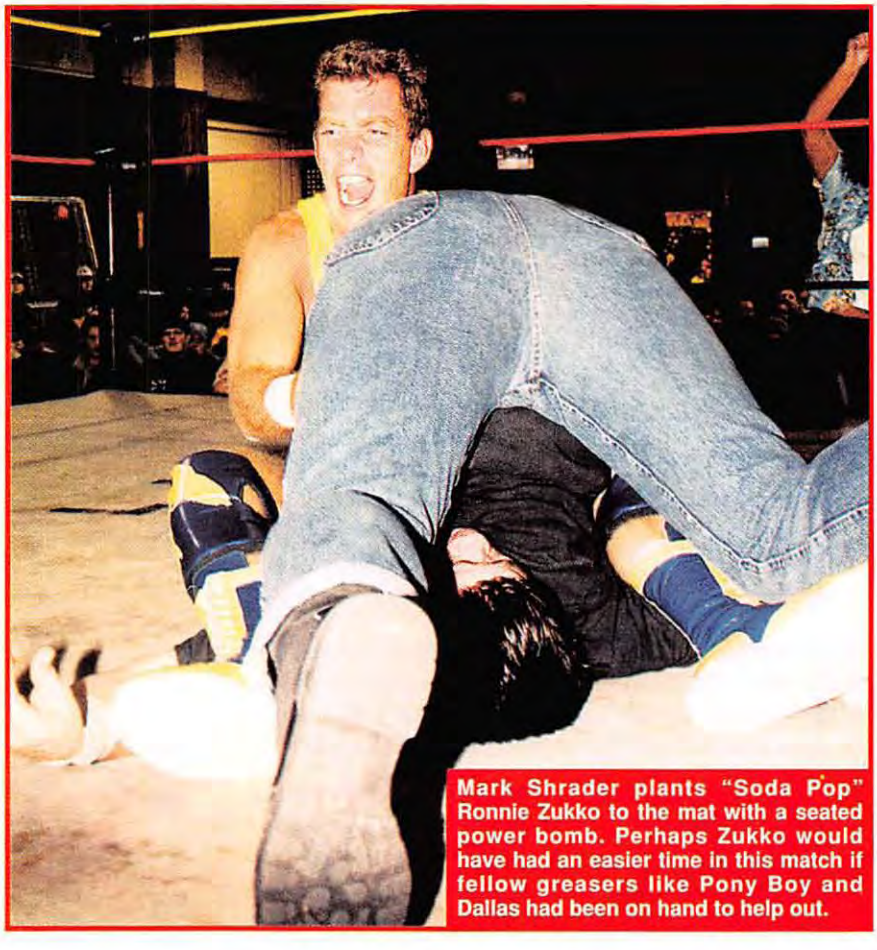
### CONNECTICUT

**PLAINFIELD**—Independent Connecticut Championship Wrestling at the Loomis Arena: **Onyx** defeated **Kid Krazy** to win the Connecticut title ... **Michael Monroe** beat **Moco** ... **Shane Williams** & **Michael Storm** defeated **Don Juan DeSanto** & **Dr. Heresy** ... Heavyweight champion **Craig Steele** beat **Jeremy Powers** by disqualification ... **The Beast** defeated **Kodiak** ... **Randy J.** defeated **Duff** ... **Billy Black** defeated **Cinna** ... Tag team champions **The Damned** beat **Chris Venom** & **Tripleicious** in a lumberjack match.
(11-11-00)

*—Jeremy Barron*

### DELAWARE

**NEWARK**—East Coast Wrestling Association at the Bob Carpenter Center: **Low-Ki** beat **Scoot Andrews** ... **Johnny Maxx, Vince Goodnite,** & **Thunder** beat **Mozart Fontaine, The Persian Prince,** & **Mr. Ooh La La** ... Memphis Championship Wrestling Southern champion **Steve Bradley** beat **Inferno** and **Simon Diamond** in a three-way dance ... Mid-Atlantic champion **Glen Osbourne** beat **Patch** in a chain match ... **Boogie Woogie Brown**



Mark Shrader plants "Soda Pop" Ronnie Zukko to the mat with a seated power bomb. Perhaps Zukko would have had an easier time in this match if fellow greasers like Pony Boy and Dallas had been on hand to help out.

defeated **Viper** ... **Ty Street** beat **Kevin Kelly** in a "Prince Of Darkness" match ... **Christopher Daniels** defeated **Reckless Youth** ... **Carnage** won a battle royal, last eliminating **J.R. Ryder** and **Mark Shrader** ... Tag team champions **The Haas Brothers** beat **The Briscoe Brothers** ... **Cheetah Master** defeated heavyweight champion **J.J. The Ring Crew Guy** to win the title.
(11-25-00)

*—Dave Lenker*

## FLORIDA

**TAMPA**—NWA Florida at the Fort Homer Hesterly Armory: **Mitsunobu Kikuzawa** defeated **Naoshi Sano** ... **The New Heavenly Bodies** defeated **Hector Guerrero** & **Nick Nitris** ... **Cyborg** defeated **Amazon Freddie** ... **Lex Lovett** beat **Pepe Prado** to win the NWA Florida junior heavyweight title ... NWA Florida heavyweight champion **Adam Windsor** defeated **Brent Dail** in a Texas death match ... **Sabu** beat NWA heavyweight champion **"Colorado Kid" Mike Rapada** to win the title ... **B. Brian Blair** defeated **Steve Keirn** in a steel cage match to win the NWA Florida tag team title.
(11-14-00)

*—Dave Lenker*

## GEORGIA

**ATHENS**—NCW/NWA Wildside at Bumpers Playhouse: **Prime Time Player** beat **Cpl. Cooter** ... **Sgt. Hardener** defeated **White Trash** ... **Onyx** & **A.J. Styles** beat **Air Paris** & **Mark E. Mark** ... **Adam Jacobs** defeated **Ben Thrasher** ... **Terry Knight** defeated **Gemini** ... **J.C. Dazz** & **Scotty Wren** defeated **Bad Attitude** by disqualification.
(11-01-00)

*—David Pierce*

**DALTON**—Tri-Star Wrestling at the TWA Arena: **Ben Thrasher** beat **John Hazard** ... **Monster Man** defeated **Adam Roberts** ... **Iron Mann** & **Rush** beat **Jimmy Sharpe** & **Big Daddy Crawley** by disqualification ... **Johnny Blaze** beat **Jeremy Jacobs** ... **Tank Norton** defeated **Bobby Hayes** ... **Johnny Quaz** & **Just Bruce** beat **Jimmy Rave** & **Roger Foster** ... **Toy Dotson** & **David Young** beat **Air Paris** & **Adam Jacobs.**
(11-01-00)

*—David Pierce*

## ILLINOIS

**ROSEMONT**—WWF at Allstate Arena: **Too Cool** beat **Test** & **Albert** ... Hardcore champion **Steve Blackman** defeated **Perry Saturn** ... European champion **William Regal** beat **Crash Holly** ... **Kane** defeated **Road Dogg** ... **The Dudley Boyz** beat **Edge** & **Christian** in a tables match ... **The Hardy Boyz** & **Lita** beat **Bull Buchanan, The Goodfather,** & **Ivory** ... **Val Venis** defeated **Al Snow** ... Intercontinental champion **Billy Gunn** beat **Eddie Guerrero** ... World champion **Kurt Angle** defeated **Chris Jericho** ... **Steve Austin** & **The Undertaker** beat **Chris Benoit** & **Rikishi.**
(11-26-00)

*—Paul Treet*

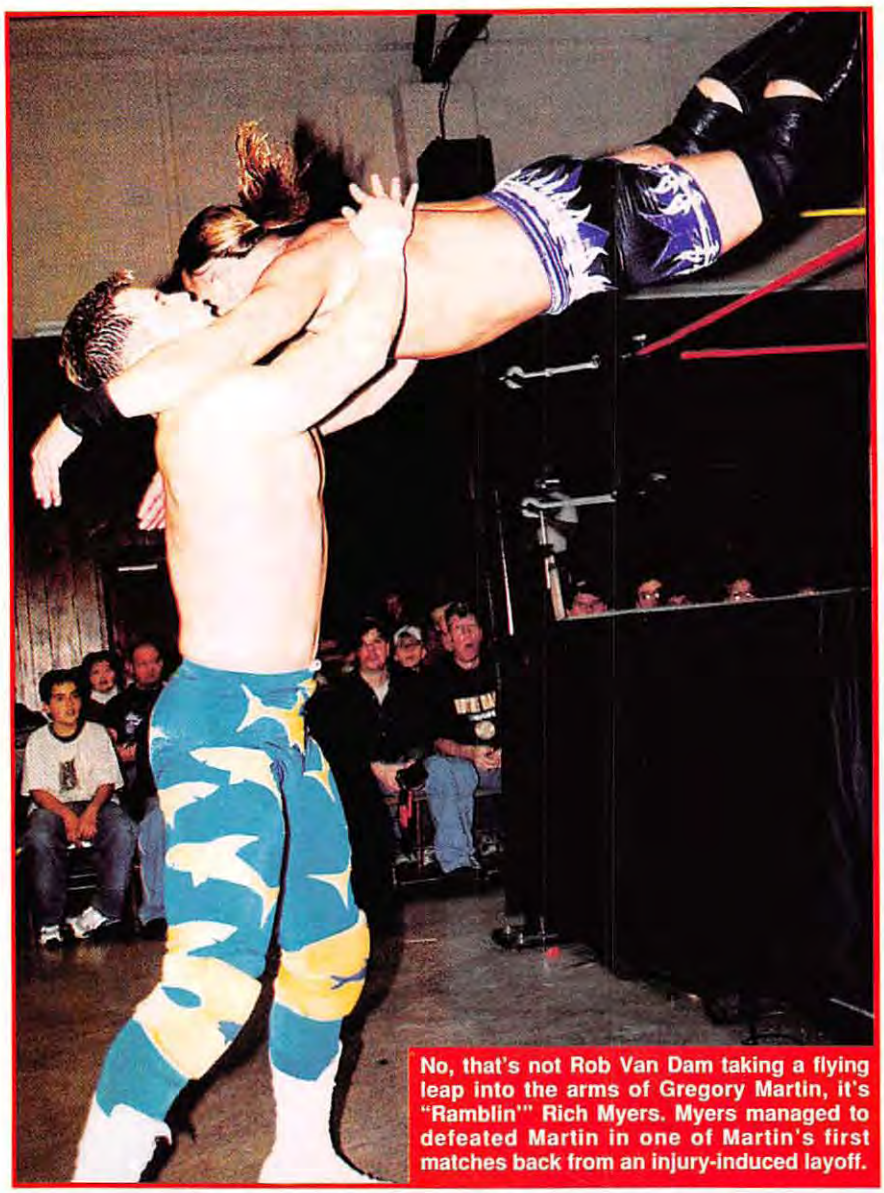
**HILLSBORO**—National Wrestling Coalition at the High School: **Captain Savage** beat **Ray Michaels** ... **Johnny Patriot** defeated **Lucky Dane** by disqualification ... **Black Death** beat **Brandon Walker** by disqualification ... **Johnny Wright** won a battle royal to become the number-one contender to the heavyweight title ... Heavyweight champion **California Kid** defeated **Johnny Wright.**
(11-11-00)

*—Brad Smithson*

## INDIANA

**BRAZIL**—Wild Championship Wrestling Outlaws at the High School: **Johnnie Walker** defeated **Cousin Otter** ... **Uncle Ernie** pinned **Don Basher** ... **Angelfire** defeated **Drucilla Davie** ... Heavyweight champion **Indiana Kidd Jr.** defeated **Jazz Hoyt** ... **Guy Lombardo** pinned

**Though High Voltage took a lot of abuse at the hands of both Marshal Law (above left) and Love Bug (above), he and his partner, Saboth, were able to squeak out a hard-fought win.**



No, that's not Rob Van Dam taking a flying leap into the arms of Gregory Martin, it's "Ramblin'" Rich Myers. Myers managed to defeated Martin in one of Martin's first matches back from an injury-induced layoff.

**Johnny Eagle** ... **The Executioner** and **Cpl. Ken Burns** battled to a double-disqualification ... **Michael Manson** and **Johnnie Walker** fought to a double-countout ... **Indiana Kidd Jr.** & **Amber Jewel** defeated **Don Basher** & **Angelfire** in a mixed tag match.
(11-11-00)

*—Randy Klemme*

## KENTUCKY

**CENTRAL CITY**—Bad 2 the Bone Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: **BioHazard** defeated **Maxx Mizery** to win the lightweight title ... **Billy Black** pinned **Dennis Dempsey** in a hardcore match ... **DeLilah Star** beat **Double Barrel** ... **Josh Garrett** pinned **Johnny Homeless** ... Heavyweight champion **Manslaughter** defeated **The Regulator** ... **BioHazard** won a survivor match.
(11-18-00)

*—Steve Drew*

**MANCHESTER**—Mid-South Wrestling Federation at the Mid-South Coliseum: **Jamie Stone** defeated **Kid Flash** ... **Chuck Lee** & **J.D. Biggs** defeated **Paul Michaels** & **Spike Rogers** ... **The Mid-South Moondogs** defeated **Armageddon** ... **J.T. Funk** & **Cooler** defeated **Malike** & **Riot** ... **Stevie Phillips** defeated **Lee Luger**.
(11-18-00)

*—Larry Pierce*

## MARYLAND

**ODENTON**—Maryland Championship Wrestling at Fort Meade: **Julio Dinero** pinned **Chip Bowman** ... **Earl the Pearl** & **Rich Myers** defeated **Joey Matthews** & **Christian York** ... **Qeenan Creed** pinned cruiserweight champion **Chad Bowman** to win the title (**Kelly Bell** was the special guest referee) ... **Jimmy Snuka** beat **Tom Brandi** ... **Candie** beat **Tara** in a hardcore match ... **Dino Divine** & **Chip Bowman** beat **Marcus** & **Orlando Jordan**, **2-Dope** & **Sideswype**, and **Romeo Valentino** & **Ronnie Zukko** in a four-team elimination match ... **Corporal Punishment** pinned **The Bruiser** in a dog-collar match ... **Adam Flash** beat **Gillberg** and heavyweight champion **Jimmy Cicero** in a three-way match to win the title.
(11-17-00)

*—Timothy A. Walker*

**HAMPSTEAD**—Mid-Eastern Wrestling Federation at North Carroll High School: **Doddie J. Caldwell** beat **Steve Camry** ... **Short Dudley** defeated **Tony Hightower** ... **Ruckus** beat light heavyweight champion **Hurricane Kid** to win the title ... Tag team champions **Bob Starr** & **Lucifer** beat **Morgus the Maniac** & **The Patriot** by disqualification ... **Buzz Stryker, Agent Orange,** & **Otto Shtark** beat **Troy Warehime, Brian Wetzel,** & **John Piper** ... **Max Thrasher** beat heavyweight champion **Dino Casanova** to win the title ... **Salvatore Sincere** beat **Rayne** in a lumberjack match ... **Van Hammer** defeated **Max Muscle.**
(11-11-00)

*—Jeff Amdur*

## MINNESOTA

**MORTON**—AWA Superstars of Wrestling at the Jackpot Junction Casino: **Danny Dominion** beat **Super Dolfin** ... **Tony DeNucci** defeated **Hellraiser** ... **Ace Steel** beat **Golga** ... Heavyweight champion **Turbo** defeated **The Patriot** ... **Adara James** beat **Sunny** ... **Vic Grimes** defeated **Donovan Morgan** ... **Navajo Warrior** beat **Jonnie Stewart** by disqualification.
(11-10-00)

*—Tim Larson*

## MISSOURI

**JOPLIN**—World League Wrestling at Memorial Hall: **Superstar Steve** pinned **Johnny Jett** ... **Drill Instructor** defeated **Deputy Dale Heiser** ... **Bull Schmitt** & **Trevor Rhodes** beat **Matt Murphy** & **Mr. Destiny** ... **Johnny Jett** & **Chae Physique** beat **Superstar Steve** & **Mr. Natural** ... **James Grizzly** defeated heavyweight champion **The Barbarian** for the belt ... **Mr. Destiny** won a battle royal.
(11-11-00)

*—Matt Duffield*

## NEW JERSEY

**WEST PATERSON**—IWF at the IWF Centre: **Rob Eckos** pinned **Damian Adams** ... **P.W. Stryker** defeated **B.P.A. Barry** and **Tony Balboa** in a triple threat match ... Tag team champions **Dr. Hurtz** & **Marc Verow** defeated **C.J. Summers** & **Jade** ... **Chris Chaos** pinned **Rick Steele** ... **Kasey Coresh** & **B.J. Thomas** defeated **Kevin Knight** & **Biggie Biggs** ... **Hadrian** beat **Roman** in a lumberjack match.
(11-19-00)

*—Michael Spivey*

**BORDENTOWN**—Dangerzone Championship Wrestling at the Armory: **Don Rott** pinned **Rapid Fire Maldonado** ... **Nubius Black** defeated **The Karetaker** ... **Tundra** beat **Draven McKnight** ... **The Cremator** defeated **Rodney Farr** ... **Kid Shamrock** pinned **Dave Patera** ... **Patch** beat **High Voltage** ... **Tommy Golden** pinned **Johnny Rock** ... **Tommy Golden** wrestled **Draven McKnight** ... **"Big" Dick Dudley** beat **Johnny Greco** in a tables match.
(11-11-00)

*—Michael J. DiMuzio*

**MARLBORO**—EWA at PlayBall Recreation: **Big Bubba Thorn** defeated **Hound** ... Light heavyweight champion **Corrupted Youth** defeated **Genocide** ... **Vinny Delicious** won a 20-man battle royal ... **Vinny Delicious** & **Maxx Payne** defeated **The Mixed Nuts** ... **Golga** defeated **The Executioner** ... **Ace Darling** defeated **The Hyena** ... **J.C. Rage** defeated **Johnny X** ... **Dan Oday, Vengeance,** & **Brian Sexton** beat **Nightfall, Ricky Quiksilver,** & **Joey Brickhouse** ... **Billy Rivell** defeated **Mr.**

**Motion, Heartbreaker,** and **Little Ricky** in a four-way match.
(11-11-00)

*—Michael Ribson*

## NEW MEXICO

**LAS CRUCES**—WWF at the Pan Am Center: **Too Cool** beat **Bull Buchanan** & **The Goodfather** ... **Lita** beat **Jacquelyn** ... World tag team champions **The Hardy Boyz** defeated **Edge** & **Christian** ... **Steven Richards** beat **Crash Holly** ... Hardcore champion **Steve Blackman** beat **Perry Saturn** ... **Billy Gunn** defeated Intercontinental champion **Eddie Guerrero** by disqualification ... **Chris Jericho** & **Steve Austin** beat **Rikishi** & **Val Venis.**
(11-04-00)

*—Drew Hinnel*

## NEW YORK

**POUGHKEEPSIE**—ECW at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center: **Sal E. Graziano** beat **Scott Hall** ... **Michael Shane** defeated **Mike Bell** ... **Hot Commodity** beat **Mikey Whipwreck, Super Crazy,** & **Yoshihiro Tajiri** ... **Yoshihiro Tajiri** defeated **Super Crazy** ... **Danny Doring** & **Roadkill** beat **Prodigy** & **Bilvis Wesley** ... **Nova** defeated **Little Guido Maritato** ... World champion **Steve Corino** and **Jerry Lynn** fought to a no-contest ... World champion **Steve Corino** beat **The Sandman** ... **Tommy Dreamer, Christian York,** & **Joey Matthews** beat **Simon Diamond, C.W. Anderson,** & **Swinger** ... TV champion **Rhino** beat **Kid Kash** ... **Chilly Willy** defeated **DeVito** ... **Scott Hall** beat **Justin Credible.**
(11-11-00)

*—Frank Krewda*

**SCHENECTADY**—ECW at the Sportsplex: **Mahoney** defeated **Redd Dogg** ... **Angel** & **DeVito** beat **Joey Matthews** & **Christian York** ... **Nova** defeated **Bilvis Wesley** ... World tag team champs **Little Guido Maritato** & **Tony Mamaluke** beat **Yoshihiro Tajiri** & **Super Crazy** ... **New Jack** beat **The Blue Boy** ... **Danny Doring, Roadkill,** & **The Sandman** defeated **Hot Commodity** ... **Kid Kash** beat **Simon Diamond** ... World champ **Steve Corino** beat **C.W. Anderson** ... **Jerry Lynn** & **Scott Hall** defeated **Rhino** & **Justin Credible.**
(11-10-00)

*—Frank Krewda*

## NORTH CAROLINA

**WILMINGTON**—Atlantic Coast Championship Wrestling at the Armory: **Leo** beat **Cold Cash D** ... Cruiserweight champ **Nemesis** and **Marc Ash** wrestled to a draw ... **Viper** beat **Boris Dragoff** ... **David Renegade** beat **Mike Draven** ... **Rustee Thomas** beat **Lady Anarchy** ... Heavyweight champion **Flexx Phenom** beat **Leo.**
(11-25-00)

*—Marcus Watkins*

**GOLDSBORO**—Independent Wrestling Alliance at Matthews Motors: **Mr. Unique** beat **MC Madness** ... **Magnum T.R.** beat **Cage** ... **Vax** beat **Flexx Phenom** ... **Joe Riot** beat **Ray Rukkus** ... **Marc Ash** beat **Bounty Hunter** ... **Doink the Clown** beat **Nemesis** ... **Viper** battled **Iron Chief** to a double-disqualification ... **Flexx Phenom** won a battle royal.
(11-18-00)

*—Marcus Watkins*

**SPARTA**—American Independent Wrestling Federation at the elementary school: **Rowland Papers** beat **Teddy Green** and **The Unknown Soldier** in a three-way match ... **The Mighty Yankee** & **Azreale** defeated **The Midnight Mauler** & **The Evil One** ... **Mitch Blake** defeated Internet champion **Rage** by disqualification in a chain match ... **Brian Danzig** & **Enigma** defeated **Jackie Anderson** & **Poison** ... **Don Carson** & **Steve Niles** wrestled **Jason McNasty** & **Gemini** to a no-contest ... **Jackie Anderson** & **The Midnight Mauler** beat **The War Machines** ... **The Scorpion** beat **The Savior** in a ladder match ... **Major Havoc** beat **Creeping Death** by disqualification.
(11-18-00)

*—Dutch Krewda*

**SANFORD**—Southern Championship Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: **Rage** beat **Haze** ... **Scorn** beat **Razor Gas** ... **Juice** beat **Saltwater Redneck** ... **Stratus** & **Aldo de Gama** beat **Southside Playas** ... **Cham Pain** & **Scab** beat **Kross** & **Natrone Steele.**
(11-11-00)

*—Greg Mosorjak*

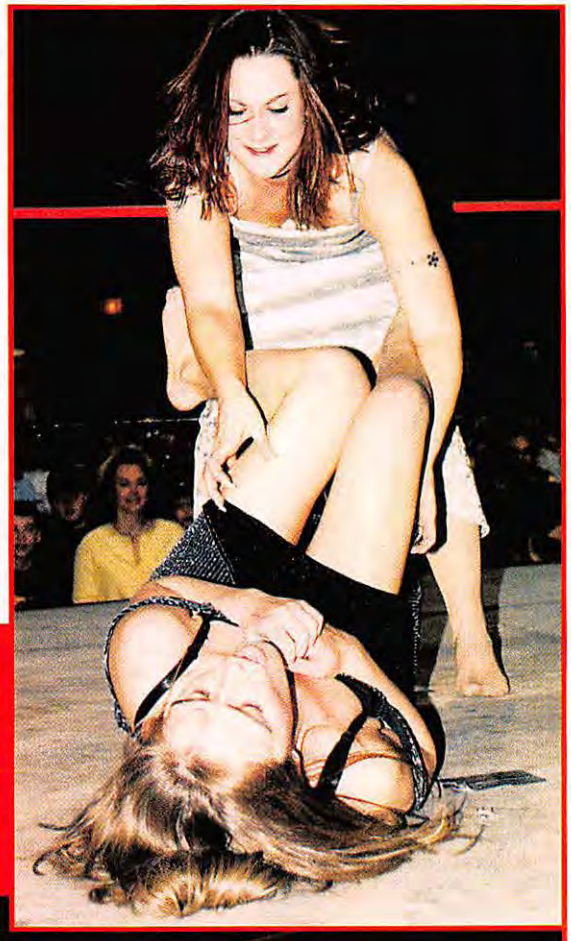
## OKLAHOMA

**TULSA**—Oklahoma Pro Wrestling at the OPW Arena: **Splash Jackson** defeated **Michael Faith** ... **Dark Angel** & **Brian Cruize** defeated **AWOL** & **Grenade** ... **Renegade** beat **Cousin Cooter** ... **Sgt. Stryker** won a women's battle royal ... **Brian Lakewood** won a men's battle royal.
(11-18-00)

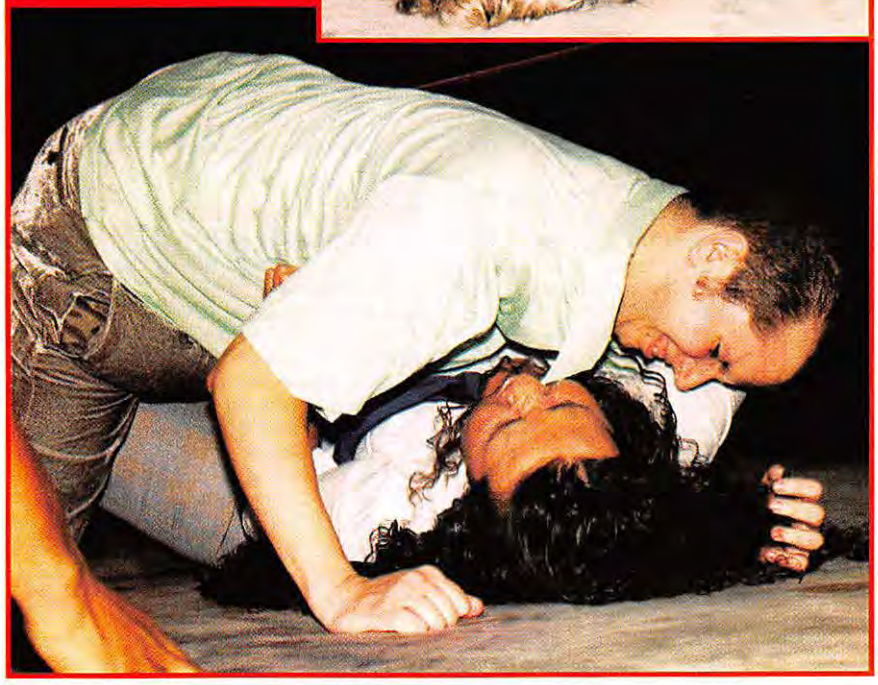
*—Ruffus McCleary*

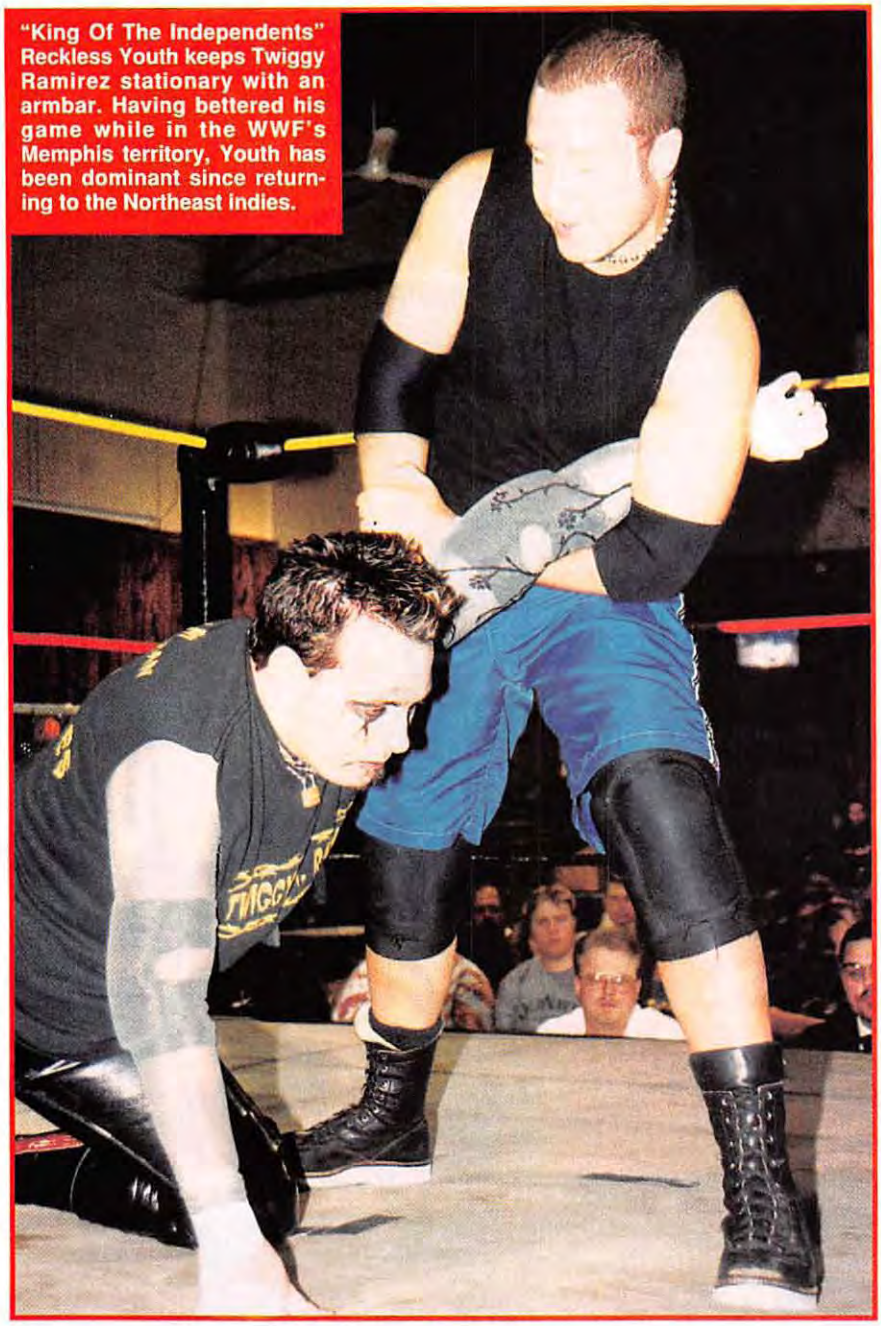
## PENNSYLVANIA

**HAMBURG**—Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling at the Hamburg Field House:



**Evening gown matches always make for quality entertainment, and the tag team bout featuring Gabriella Leigh and Colleen vs. Candie and Drew Lazario didn't disappoint. Colleen tried to strip Candie (right) while Lazario tried to pin Gabriella (below).**





**"King Of The Independents" Reckless Youth keeps Twiggy Ramirez stationary with an armbar. Having bettered his game while in the WWF's Memphis territory, Youth has been dominant since returning to the Northeast indies.**

***Quarterfinals of the Giorgio Foods tag team tournament:*** **Death & Destruction** defeated **Johnny Maxx** & **Vincent Goodnite** ... **J.J. Johnston** & **Cheetah Master** beat **Earl the Pearl** & **Rich Myers** ... **The Ballard Brothers** beat **Charlie Haas** & **Ty Street** ... **Touch of Reality** defeated **Glen Osbourne** & **Eddie Valentine** ... ***Semifinals:*** Death & Destruction defeated Johnston & Cheetah Master ... The Ballard Brothers beat Touch of Reality ... ***Finals:*** The Ballard Brothers beat Death & Destruction to win the Giorgio Foods tag team tournament trophy ... ***In non-tournament matches:*** **Benny Stooltzfoos** pinned **Japanese Assassin** ... **John Balsamo** beat commonwealth champion **Mr. Ooh La La** to win the title ... **Gillberg** pinned **Mozart Fontaine** ... **Buck Wylde** pinned heavyweight champion **Ty Street** to win the title.
(11-10-00)

*—Tim Walker*

## RHODE ISLAND

**EAST PROVIDENCE**—Rhode Island Wrestling Alliance at the YMCA: **Danny Boy O'Callahan** beat **Lumberjack** ... **Danny Cama** defeated **Shecky Lover** ... **Bad News** beat **Hector Diaz** ... **Bill Thomas** defeated **Golden Hawk** ... **Cassy Straytor** defeated **Sweet Rita** to become the first RIWA women's champion ... Tag team champions **The X-Communicados** beat **Low Gear McFarland** & **Silver Shecky** ... TV champion **Danger Boy Alfredo** defeated **The Reaper** ... Heavyweight champion **Wolverine** beat **Johnny T** ... **Danny Cama** won a battle royal.
(11-05-00)

*—Al Travieso*

## TENNESSEE

**KINGSPORT**—Southern States Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: **Wade Adams** and **Grappler II** fought to a draw ... **Mike Cooper** beat Young Guns TV champ **Danny DeLucci** by disqualification ... Appalachian champion **Porkchop Thomas** beat **Grappler I** ... **Stan Sierra, Super Maskman, Steve Phillips,** & **Death Row** beat **Wade Adams, Ray Idol, Brian Overbay,** & **Mr. Tennessee** ... Heavyweight champion **Iron Cross** beat **Brian Logan** ... Tag team champs **Something Else** and **The Family** wrestled to a no-contest ... **Manny Fernandez** beat **Brian Logan.**
(11-11-00)

*—Fay Ferguson*

## TEXAS

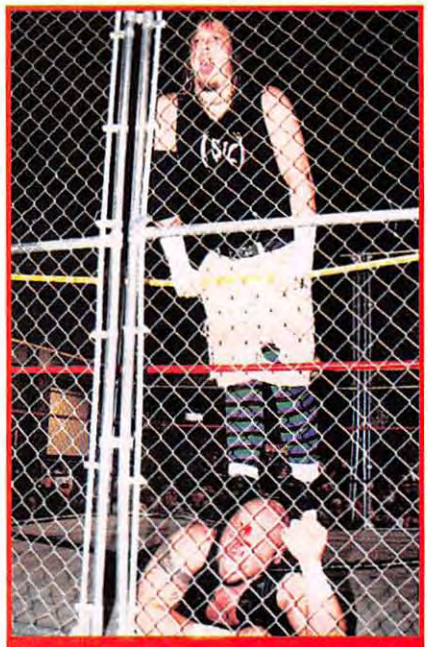
**PLANO**—Texas Championship Wrestling at the Nuthin' But Net Rec Center: **Joey Corman** beat **The Downtown Jobber** and **Sexy Boy** in a three-way match ... **Stryker** beat **Scott Patrick** by disqualification ... **Big Johnson** beat **Kevin Dark** ... **Pendragon** beat **Al Jackson** ... Tag team champs **The Future** beat **Flame** & **Epi** by reverse decision ... Texas champion **Dr. X** beat **Beast.**
(11-25-00)

*—Allen Pike*

**NORTH RICHLAND HILLS**—NWA Southwest at the Texas Indoor Arena: **Beast** beat **Big Manu** by disqualification ... **Mike Anthony** pinned **Dark Angel** ... **Zane Morris** pinned **Chris Chronic** ... **Al Jackson** beat **Gravedigger** by disqualification ... **Larry Green** & **Chris Young** beat NWA Southwest tag team champs **Action Jackson** & **Mike Thunder** to win the belts.
(11-17-00)

*—Rob Moore*

**LUBBOCK**—WWF at United Spirit Arena: **Too Cool** beat **Bull Buchanan** & **The Goodfather** ... **Lita** defeated **Jacquelyn** ... **Steven Richards** beat **Crash Holly** ... Light heavyweight champi-



**Adam Flash chokes out Dino Divine during their six-man elimination match also featuring Don Montoya, Mike Quackenbush, Jake Daniels, and Danny Rose. The match, the FWA's last-ever, saw Quackenbush win the promotion's heavyweight title.**

on **Dean Malenko** defeated **Raven** ... **Steve Austin** & **Chris Jericho** beat **Val Venis** & **Rikishi** ... Hardcore champion **Steve Blackman** beat **Perry Saturn** ... **Billy Gunn** beat Intercontinental champion **Eddie Guerrero** by disqualification ... World tag team champions **The Hardy Boyz** beat **Christian** & **Edge.**
(11-05-00)

*—Dominick Valenti*

## VIRGINIA

**ROANOKE**—North American Wrestling Alliance at the National Guard Armory: **Drake Tungsten** defeated **Hugh B. Johnson** ... Tag team champions **Shane Hooker** & **The Intimidator** defeated **Dorty Reid** & **Mr. Breeze** ... **Mike Williams** beat **Col. Spud Wade** and **Major Joe Powers** in a three-way dance ... **Tone Up** won a 10-man battle royal, last eliminating **Ric Kelly** ... **Masked Superstar** beat **War Machine** ... **Tony Atlas** & **Rolling Thunder** beat **Death & Destruction.**
(11-11-00)

*—C. Shane Cochran*

## WASHINGTON

**TACOMA**—Pacific Wrestling Federation at the Temple Theatre: **Big Wood** won a battle royal ... **Big Ced** defeated **Shoulders Terelli** ... **Tiger Redding** beat **Patty McHale** ... **Hecklez Da Clown** defeated **Bryan Alvarez** ... **Ken Riley** beat **Trelane** ... **Moose** defeated **Makevelli, Sonny O'Mara,** and **Teenage Dirtbag** in a four-way match ... **Mean Mark** & **Rugged Rod** beat **Punk Rock Prod** in a handicap match ... **Randy Taylor** defeated **Whiplash** ... **Mr. Sexy** defeated **Jade** & **Combat Girl** in a "Battle Of The Sexes" handicap match ... **Chris Del Sol** beat **Avalanche** in a bullrope match to win the heavyweight title ... **Urban Outlaw** & **Mr. GQ** defeated **Buddy Wayne** & **Ritchie Magnett** in a ladder match ... International heavyweight champion **Tim Flowers** beat **Shooter.**
(11-17-00)

*—Neil O'Brien*

## WEST VIRGINIA

**OAK HILL**—All Pro Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: **Nomad** defeated **Drake Tungsten** ... **Kid Apollo** defeated **Richie Action** by countout ... **The All-Americans** defeated **The Canadians** ... **Brute Shooter** defeated **Scotty Blaze** ... **Flex, Jack Miller,** & **Cuban Assassin II** defeated **War Machine** & **UDS.**
(11-14-00)

*—Bob Winks*

**MIDDLEBOURNE**—Mason Dixon Wrestling at the Stealey Green Center: **The Latin Tornado** beat **Tony Nardo** ... **The Masked Assassins** beat **Thrillbilly Ox** & **Pit Bull Bob Brown** by reverse decision ... **Frost** beat **Daron Smythe** ... **Thrillbilly Ox** beat **Masked Assassin II** by disqualification ... **Masked Assassin I** beat **Pit Bull Bob Brown** ... **Chick Scott** beat **Gambino.**
(11-11-00)

*—Mark Mills*

# INTERNATIONAL

## CANADA

**CLOVERDALE, BRITISH COLUMBIA**—International Championship Wrestling's "Rage In The Cage 2000" (all matches wrestled inside a steel cage) at the Cloverdale Fairgrounds Products Building: **Whiplash** won a battle royal ... **Rugged Rod** beat **The Machine** ... **Stoney Edwards** beat **Makevelli** ... **Big Ced** defeated **Shoulders Terelli** ... **Jason Prowler** beat **Patty McHale** ... **Moose** defeated **Scotty Braden** ... **Tiger Redding** beat **Hecklez Da Clown** ... **Trelane** defeated **Teenage Dirtbag** ... **Vince Hall** beat **Jesse Evans** ... Tag team champs **Urban Outlaw** & **Mr. GQ** beat **Buddy Wayne** & **Ritchie Magnett** ... **Bryan Alvarez** defeated **Jake Evans** ... **Mean Mark** beat **Punk Rock Prod** ... **Randy Taylor** defeated **Ken Johnson** ... **Combat Girl** beat **Mr. Sexy** ... PWF heavyweight champion **Avalanche** defeated **Sonny O'Mara** ... ICW heavyweight champion **Tim Flowers** beat **Shooter.**
(11-25-00)

*—Neil O'Brien*

## ENGLAND

**NEWCASTLE**—WCW at the Telewest Arena: **Norman Smiley** beat **Kwee-Wee** ... **Gen. Rection, Lt. Loco,** & **Cpl. Cajun** beat **Lance Storm, Jim Duggan,** & **Elix Skipper** ... **The Cat** beat cruiserweight champion **Mike Sanders** in a non-title match ... Hardcore champion **Crowbar** defeated **Big Vito, Meng,** and **Sgt. A-Wall** in a four-way hardcore match ... **Mike Awesome** beat **Bam Bam Bigelow** ... World tag team champions **Mark Jindrak** & **Sean O'Haire** beat **Boogie Knights** and **Rey Misterio Jr.** & **Billy Kidman** in a three-way match ... **Kevin Nash, Sting,** & **Buff Bagwell** beat **Reno, Shawn Stasiak,** & **Chuck Palumbo** ... **Bill Goldberg** defeated **Lex Luger** ... World champion **Booker T** beat **Scott Steiner.**
(11-11-00)

*—Dutch Krewda*

# THIS MONTH IN HISTORY APRIL

## CALIFORNIA

**LOS ANGELES**—NWA at the Olympic Auditorium: **Betty Niccoli** beat **Barbara Galento** ... **Black Gordman** defeated **Goliath** ... **Dory Dixon** beat **Kubla Khan** ... **Killer Kowalski** & **Kenji Shibuya** defeated **The Tolos Brothers** ... **Mr. Wrestling** and **Raul Mata** wrestled to a draw ... **Billy Graham** beat **Art Dominguez** ... **King Krow** defeated **Lou Anthony.**
(04-21-72)

*—PWI archives*

## FLORIDA

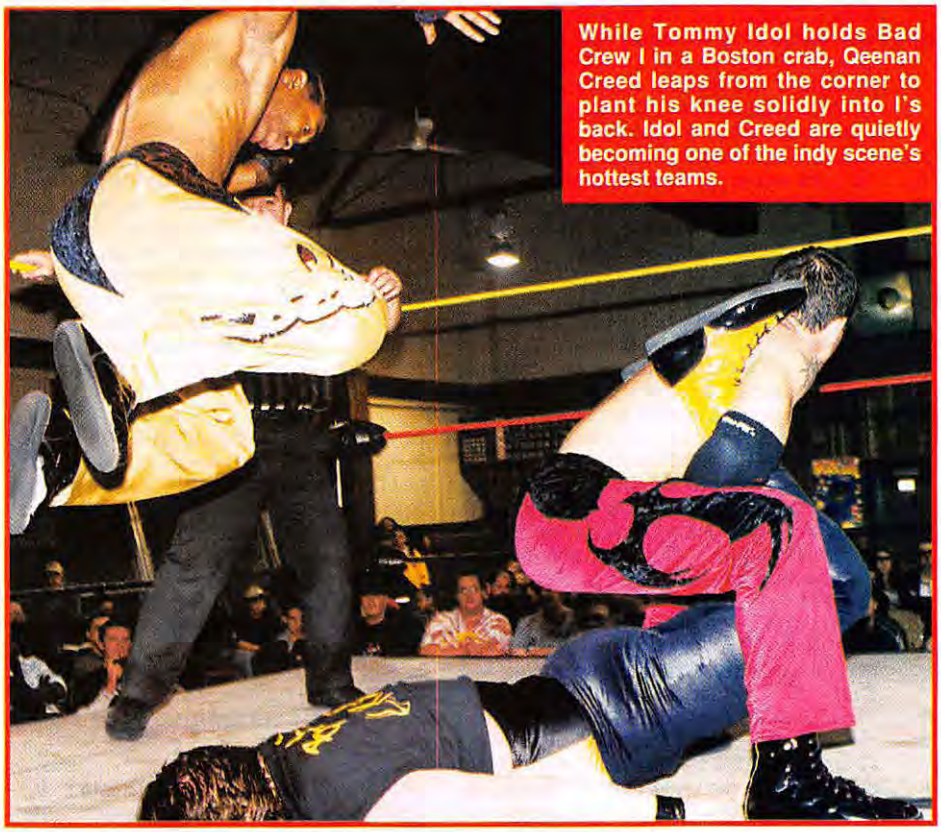
**TAMPA**—NWA at the Fort Homer Hesterly Armory: **Rita Boucher** beat **Donna Christantello, Kathy O'Day, Sherri Lee,** and **Paula Kaye** in an elimination match ... **Jose Lothario** beat **Mr. Saito** ... **Danny Miller** and **Red Menace** wrestled to a draw ... **Jack Brisco** beat **Dale Lewis** in a no-disqualification match ... **The Missouri Mauler, Thunderbolt Patterson,** & **El Lobo** beat **Sam Steamboat, Argentina Apollo,** & **Bob Orton** in a six-man steel cage match.
(04-21-70)

*—PWI archives*

## NEW YORK

**NEW YORK**—WWF at Madison Square Garden: **Ivan Putski, Pedro Morales,** & **Andre the Giant** defeated **Mr. Fuji, Mr. Saito,** & **Greg Valentine** ... **Tony Atlas** defeated **Jesse Ventura** ... **Tony Garea** beat **Charlie Fulton** ... **Adrian Adonis** defeated **Pete Sanchez** ... **Bob Orton** defeated **Rick McGraw** ... **Blackjack Mulligan** beat **Steve Travis** ... **Jimmy Snuka** beat World champion **Bob Backlund** by disqualification.
(04-26-82)

*—PWI archives*



**While Tommy Idol holds Bad Crew I in a Boston crab, Qeenan Creed leaps from the corner to plant his knee solidly into I's back. Idol and Creed are quietly becoming one of the indy scene's hottest teams.**

**ECW GUILTY AS CHARGED (Birmingham, AL, Boutwell Auditorium): C.W. Anderson** defeated **Mikey Whipwreck** ... **Simon Diamond, Danny Doring, & Roadkill** beat **Nova, Kid Kash, & Jazz** ... **Super Crazy & Yoshihiro Tajiri** defeated **Jerry Lynn & Little Guido Maritato** ... **Angel** beat **New Jack** in a king-of-the-streets match ... TV champion **Rob Van Dam** defeated **Sabu** ... **Justin Credible & Lance Storm** beat World tag team champions **Tommy Dreamer & Raven** for the belts ... World champion **Mike Awesome** defeated **Spike Dudley**.
(January 9)

**WCW SOULED OUT (Cincinnati, OH, Firstar Center): Billy Kidman** beat **Dean Malenko** ... **Vampiro** defeated **David Flair & Crowbar** in a handicap match ... **Big Vito & Johnny the Bull** beat **Don & Ron Harris** ... **Oklahoma** defeated cruiserweight champion **Madusa** to win the title ... Hardcore champion **Brian Knobs** beat **Norman Smiley, Meng,** and **Dave "Fit" Finlay** in a four-way hardcore match ... **Booker T** beat **Stevie Ray** by disqualification ... **Tank Abbott** defeated **Jerry Flynn** by knockout in a shootfight rules match ... **Buff Bagwell** beat **Dallas Page** in a last-man-standing match ... **The Wall** beat **Billy Kidman** in a cage match ... **Kevin Nash** defeated **Terry Funk** ... **Chris Benoit** defeated **Sid Vicious** to win the vacant World title.
(January 16)

**WWF ROYAL RUMBLE (New York, NY, Madison Square Garden): Tazz** beat **Kurt Angle** ... **The Hardy Boyz** defeated **The Dudley Boyz** in a tables match ... **Mae Young** won the Miss Royal Rumble 2000 contest ... Co-Intercontinental champion **Chris Jericho** beat co-Intercontinental champion **Chyna** and **Hardcore Holly** in a three-way match to become the undisputed Intercontinental champion ... World tag team champions **Billy Gunn & Jesse James** defeated **The Acolytes** ... World champion **Triple-H** beat **Cactus Jack** in a streetfight ... **The Rock** won the 30-man Royal Rumble, last eliminating **The Big Show**.
(January 23)

**WCW SUPERBRAWL (San Francisco, CA, Cow Palace):** ***In the finals of the WCW cruiserweight tournament:*** **The Artist** beat **Lash LeRoux** to win the vacant title ... **Brian Knobs** beat hardcore champion **Bam Bam Bigelow** for the title ... **Three Count** defeated **Norman Smiley** in a handicap match ... **The Wall** beat **The Demon** ... World tag team champions **Big Vito & Johnny the Bull** defeated **David Flair & Crowbar** ... **Billy Kidman** beat **Vampiro** ... **Ric Flair** defeated **Terry Funk** in a death match ... **Tank Abbott** beat **Big Al** in a skins match ... **Hulk Hogan** beat **Lex Luger** ... World champion **Sid Vicious** defeated **Scott Hall** and **Jeff Jarrett** in a no-disqualification triple threat match.
(February 20)

**WWF NO WAY OUT (Hartford, CT, Civic Center):** European champion **Kurt Angle** defeated Intercontinental champion **Chris Jericho** to win the title ... **The Dudley Boyz** beat World tag team champions **Jesse James & Billy Gunn** to win the belts ... **Mark Henry** defeated **Viscera** ... **Edge & Christian** beat **The Hardy Boyz** in a number-one contenders match ... **Tazz** defeated **Big Bossman** by disqualification ... **X-Pac** pinned **Kane** in a no-holds-barred match ... **Too Cool & Rikishi** beat **Dean Malenko, Perry Saturn, & Chris Benoit** ... **The Big Show** pinned **The Rock** in a number-one contender match ... World champion **Triple-H** beat **Cactus Jack** in a "Hell In A Cell" match. Due to prematch stipulations, Jack was forced into retirement following the match.
(February 20)

**ECW LIVING DANGEROUSLY (Danbury, CT, O'Neill Center): Dusty Rhodes** beat **Steve Corino** in a bullrope match ... **C.W. Anderson & Bill Wiles** beat **Danny Doring & Roadkill** ... World champion **Mike Awesome** defeated **Kid Kash** ... **Nova & Chris Chetti** beat **Gedo & Jado** ... **Mahoney** defeated **Kintaro Kanemura** ... **Justin Credible & Lance Storm** beat **Tommy Dreamer & Masato Tanaka** and World tag team champs **Raven & Mike Awesome** in a three-way match to win the belts ... ***Semifinal match in the ECW TV title tournament:*** **Super Crazy** beat **Little Guido Maritato** ... ***Finals of the ECW TV title tournament:*** Super Crazy defeated **Rhino** to win the vacant title.
(March 13)

**WCW UNCENSORED (Miami, FL, American Airlines Arena):** Cruiserweight champion **The Artist** beat **Psicosis** ... **Norman Smiley & The Demon** defeated **Lane & Rave** ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** beat **The Wall** by disqualification ... **Brian Knobs** beat hardcore champions **Three Count** in a handicap match to win the title ... **Billy Kidman & Booker T** defeated **Stevie Ray & Big T** ... **Vampiro** beat **Fit Finlay** ... **Don & Ron Harris** beat World tag team champions **Big Vito & Johnny the Bull** to win the title ... **Dustin Rhodes** defeated **Terry Funk** in a bullrope match ... **Sting** beat **Lex Luger** in a lumberjack cast match ... World champion **Sid Vicious** defeated **Jeff Jarrett** ... **Hulk Hogan** beat **Ric Flair** in a strap match.
(March 19)

**WWF WRESTLEMANIA (Anaheim, CA, Arrowhead Pond): Big Bossman & Bull Buchanan** beat **The Godfather & D-Lo Brown** ... **Hardcore Holly** won the 15-minute hardcore battle royal to win the hardcore title ... **Test & Albert** beat **Al Snow & Steve Blackman** ... **Edge & Christian** beat **The Hardy Boyz** and World tag team champions **The Dudley Boyz** in a three-way ladder match to win the title ... **Terri** defeated **The Kat** ... **Chyna & Too Cool** beat **Eddie Guerrero, Perry Saturn, & Dean Malenko** ... **Chris Benoit** beat **Chris Jericho** and Intercontinental/European champion **Kurt Angle** to win the Intercontinental title in the match's first fall; In the second fall for the European title, Jericho defeated Benoit and Angle to win the title ... **Kane & Rikishi** beat **X-Pac & Road Dogg** ... World champion **Triple-H** beat **The Rock, Mick Foley,** and **The Big Show** in a fatal four-way match.
(April 2)

**WCW SPRING STAMPEDE (Chicago, IL, United Center):** Radio personality **Mancow** beat **Jimmy Hart** ... **Chris Candido** defeated **The Artist, Shannon Moore, Juventud Guerrera, Crowbar,** and **Lash LeRoux** in a six-way match to win the vacant cruiserweight title ... ***Semifinals of the WCW World tag team title tournament:*** **Ric Flair & Lex Luger** beat **Big Vito & Johnny the Bull & Don & Ron Harris** in a handicap match ... **Shane Douglas & Buff Bagwell** defeated **Harlem Heat 2000** ... ***Finals of the WCW World tag team title tournament:*** Douglas & Bagwell defeated Flair & Luger to win the belts ... ***Quarterfinals of the WCW U.S. title tournament:*** **Scott Steiner** beat **The Wall** by disqualification ... **Mike Awesome** defeated **Ernest Miller** ... **Sting** beat **Booker T** ... **Vampiro** defeated **Billy Kidman** ... ***Semifinals of the WCW U.S. title tournament:*** Steiner beat Awesome ... Sting defeated Vampiro ... ***Finals of the WCW U.S. title tournament:*** Steiner beat Sting to win the vacant title ... ***In non-tournament matches:*** **Terry Funk** beat **Norman Smiley** to win the vacant hardcore title ... **Jeff Jarrett** defeated **"Diamond" Dallas Page** to win the vacant World title.
(April 17)

**WWF BACKLASH (Washington, DC, MCI Center):** World tag team champions **Christian & Edge** beat **Road Dogg & X-Pac** ... Light heavyweight champion **Dean Malenko** defeated **Scotty Too Hotty** ... **Big Bossman & Bull Buchanan** defeated **Bradshaw & Faarooq** ... Hardcore champion **Crash Holly** won a six-way match against **Jeff Hardy, Matt Hardy, Hardcore Holly, Perry Saturn,** and **Tazz** ... **The Big Show** defeated **Kurt Angle** ... **Test & Albert** beat **The Dudley Boyz** ... European champion **Eddie Guerrero** beat **Essa Rios** ... Intercontinental champion **Chris Benoit** beat **Chris Jericho** by disqualification ... **The Rock** pinned World champion **Triple-H** to win the title.
(April 30)

**WCW SLAMBOREE (Kansas City, MO, Kemper Arena):** Cruiserweight champion **Chris Candido** beat **The Artist** ... Hardcore champion **Terry Funk** defeated **Norman Smiley** and his mystery partner, **Ralphus,** in a handicap match ... **Shawn Stasiak** beat **Curt Hennig** ... U.S. champion **Scott Steiner** defeated **Gen. Rection** ... **Mike Awesome** and **Chris Kanyon** fought to a no-contest ... **Lex Luger** beat **Buff Bagwell** ... **Shane Douglas** defeated **Ric Flair** ... **Sting** beat **Vampiro** ... **Hulk Hogan** defeated **Billy Kidman** ... **Jeff Jarrett** beat **"Diamond" Dallas Page** and World champion **David Arquette** in a triple-tier cage match to win the title.
(May 7)

**ECW HARDCORE HEAVEN (Milwaukee, WI, The Rave): Masato Tanaka** beat **Mahoney** ... **Little Guido Maritato** beat **Mikey Whipwreck** and **Simon Diamond** in a three-way match ... **Kid Kash** beat **C.W. Anderson** ... **Nova & Chris Chetti** beat **DeVito & Angel** and **Danny Doring & Roadkill** in a three-way match ... **Yoshihiro Tajiri** beat **Steve Corino** ... TV champ **Rhino** beat **The Sandman** ... **Jerry Lynn** beat **Rob Van Dam** after **Scotty Anton** interfered ... World champion **Justin Credible** beat **Lance Storm.**
(May 14)

**WWF JUDGMENT DAY (Louisville, KY, Freedom Hall): Too Cool & Rikishi** beat **Kurt Angle, Edge, & Christian** ... European champion **Eddie Guerrero** beat **Dean Malenko** and **Perry Saturn** in a three-way match ... **Shane McMahon** beat **The Big Show** in a no-holds-barred match ... Intercontinental champ **Chris Benoit** beat **Chris Jericho** in a submission match ... **Road Dogg & X-Pac** beat **The Dudley Boyz** in a tables match ... **Triple-H** beat World champion **The Rock** in an "Ironman" match to win the title.
(May 21)

**WCW GREAT AMERICAN BASH (Baltimore, MD, Baltimore Arena):** Cruiserweight champion **Lt. Loco** beat **Disco Inferno** ... **Kronic** defeated **Big Vito & Johnny the Bull** ... **Mike Awesome** beat **"Diamond" Dallas Page** in an ambulance match ... **G.I. Bro** defeated **Shawn Stasiak** in a boot camp match ... **Shane Douglas** beat **The Wall** in a tables match ... U.S. champ **Scott Steiner** defeated **Tank Abbott & Rick Steiner** in an asylum match ... **Hollywood Hogan** beat **Billy Kidman** for a World title shot at the Bash at the Beach pay-per-view ... **Ric Flair** defeated **David Flair** ... **Vampiro** beat **Sting** in a "Human Torch" match ... World champion **Jeff Jarrett** defeated **Kevin Nash.**
(June 11)

**WWF KING OF THE RING (Boston, MA, FleetCenter):** ***King of the Ring tournament, quarter-***

*final matches:* **Rikishi** beat **Chris Benoit** by disqualification ... **Val Venis** defeated **Eddie Guerrero** ... **Crash Holly** beat **Bull Buchanan** ... **Kurt Angle** defeated **Chris Jericho** ... ***Non-tournament match:*** **Christian & Edge** beat World tag team champs **Tool Cool, The Hardy Boyz,** and **T & A** in a four-way match to win the title ... ***KOTR semifinal matches:*** Rikishi beat Venis ... Angle defeated Holly ... ***Non-tournament matches:*** **X-Pac, Road Dogg, & Tori** beat **The Dudley Boyz** in a table/dumpster handicap match ... Hardcore champion **Pat Patterson** and **Gerald Brisco** fought to a no-contest ... **Crash Holly** defeated hardcore champ **Pat Patterson** to win the title ... ***KOTR finals:*** Angle beat Rikishi ... ***Non-tournament match:*** **The Rock, Kane, & The Undertaker** defeated **Triple-H, Shane McMahon, & Vince McMahon.** Due to a prematch stipulaton, **The Rock** became the new WWF World champion via his winning pinfall over Vince McMahon.
(June 25)

**WCW BASH AT THE BEACH (Daytona Beach, FL, Ocean Center):** Cruiserweight champion **Lt. Loco** beat **Juventud Guerrera** ... Hardcore champion **Big Vito** defeated **Ralphus & Norman Smiley** ... **Daffney** beat **Miss Hancock** in a wedding gown match ... **Kronic** defeated World tag team champions **Shawn Stasiak & Chuck Palumbo** to win the title ... **Chris Kanyon** beat **Booker T** ... **Mike Awesome** beat U.S. champion **Scott Steiner** by disqualification ... **Vampiro** defeated **The Demon** in a graveyard match ... **Shane Douglas** beat **Buff Bagwell** ... **Bill Goldberg** defeated **Kevin Nash** ... **Booker T** beat World champion **Jeff Jarrett** to win the title.
(July 9)

**ECW HEATWAVE 2000 (Los Angeles, CA, Grand Olympic Auditorium): Sal E. Graziano** beat **Mahoney** ... **Danny Doring, Roadkill, & Kid Kash** defeated **C.W. Anderson, Simon Diamond, & Swinger** ... **Jerry Lynn** beat **Steve Corino** ... **Chris Chetti & Nova** defeated **Angel & DeVito** ... **Yoshihiro Tajiri** beat **Little Guido Maritato, Mikey Whipwreck,** and **Psicosis** in a four-way match ... TV champion **Rhino** defeated **The Sandman** ... **Rob Van Dam** beat **Scotty Anton** ... World champion **Justin Credible** defeated **Tommy Dreamer.**
(July 16)

**WWF FULLY LOADED (Dallas, TX, Reunion Arena): The Hardy Boyz & Lita** beat **Test, Albert, & Trish Stratus** ... **Tazz** beat **Al Snow** ... **Perry Saturn** defeated European champion **Eddie Guerrero** to win the title ... **The Acolytes** beat World tag team champions **Edge & Christian** by disqualification ... **Val Venis** defeated **Rikishi** in a cage match ... **The Undertaker** beat **Kurt Angle** ... **Triple-H** defeated **Chris Jericho** in a last-man-standing match ... World champion **The Rock** beat **Chris Benoit.**
(July 23)

**WCW NEW BLOOD RISING (Vancouver, BC, Pacific Coliseum): Three Count** beat **The Jung Dragons** in a double-ladder match ... **Ernest Miller** defeated **The Great Muta** ... **Buff Bagwell** beat **Chris Kanyon** ... World tag team champions **Kronic** defeated **The Perfect Event, Mark Jindrak & Sean O'Haire,** and **Gen. Rection & Cpl. Cajun** in a four-way match ... **Billy Kidman** beat **Shane Douglas** in a strap match ... **Major Gunns** defeated **Miss Hancock** ... **Sting** beat **The Demon** ... U.S., hardcore, and cruiserweight champion **Lance Storm** defeated **Mike Awesome** ... **The Great Muta & Vampiro** beat World tag team champs **Kronic** to win the title ... **Kevin Nash** defeated **Scott Steiner** and **Bill Goldberg** in a three-way match ... World champion **Booker T** beat **Jeff Jarrett.**
(August 13)

**WWF SUMMERSLAM (Raleigh, NC, Entertainment and Sports Complex): Right To Censor** beat **Too Cool & Rikishi** ... **X-Pac** defeated **Road Dogg** ... **Eddie Guerrero & Chyna** beat Intercontinental champion **Val Venis & Trish Stratus** in a mixed gender match with Venis' Intercontinental title on the line. Chyna won the title via her pinfall of Stratus ... **Jerry Lawler** defeated **Tazz** ... **Steve Blackman** beat hardcore champion **Shane McMahon** for the title ... **Chris Benoit** beat **Chris Jericho** in a best-of-three-falls match ... World tag team champions **Edge & Christian** beat **The Hardy Boyz** and **The Dudley Boyz** in a tables, ladders, and chairs match ... **The Kat** defeated **Terri** in a stink face match ... **The Undertaker** and **Kane** fought to a no-contest ... World champion **The Rock** beat **Triple-H** and **Kurt Angle** in a three-way match.
(August 27)

**WCW FALL BRAWL (Buffalo, NY, HSBC Arena)** Cruiserweight champion **Elix Skipper** beat **Kwee-Wee** ... **The Misfits In Action** defeated **Three Count** ... **Ron & Don Harris** beat **Kronic** in a first-blood chain match ... U.S. champion **Lance Storm** defeated **Gen. Rection** ... **The Natural Born Thrillers** and **The Filthy Animals** wrestled to a no-contest ... **Torrie Wilson & Shane Douglas** beat **Billy Kidman & Madusa** in a scaffold match ... **Sting** defeated **The Great Muta** and **Vampiro** in a three-way match ... **Mike Awesome** beat **Jeff Jarrett** in a bunkhouse brawl ... **Scott Steiner** defeated **Bill Goldberg** in a no-disqualification match ... **Booker T** beat World champion **Kevin Nash** in a cage match for the title.
(September 17)

**WWF UNFORGIVEN (Philadelphia, PA, First Union Center): Right To Censor** beat **The Dudley Boyz & The Acolytes** in an eight-man tag team match ... **Tazz** defeated **Jerry Lawler** ... **Steve Blackman** won the 10-minute hardcore battle royal for the hardcore title ... **Chris Jericho** beat **X-Pac** ... **The Hardy Boyz** defeated World tag team champions **Edge & Christian** in a cage match to win the title ... Intercontinental champion **Eddie Guerrero** beat **Rikishi** by disqualification ... **Triple-H** defeated **Kurt Angle** ... World champion **The Rock** beat **Chris Benoit, The Undertaker,** and **Kane** in a four-way match.
(September 24)

**ECW ANARCHY RULZ (St. Paul, MN, Roy Wilkins Auditorium): Danny Doring & Roadkill** beat **Christian York & Joey Matthews** ... **Kid Kash** defeated **E.Z. Money** ... **Joel Gertner** beat **Cyrus** ... **Da Baldies** defeated **Mahoney & Chilly Willy** ... **Steve Corino** beat **C.W. Anderson** in a number-one contender match ... World tag team champions **Little Guido Maritato & Tony Mamaluke** beat **Mikey Whipwreck & Yoshihiro Tajiri** ... TV champion **Rhino** defeated **Rob Van Dam** ... **Jerry Lynn** beat World champion **Justin Credible** for the title.
(October 1)

**WWF NO MERCY (Albany, NY, Pepsi Arena): The Dudley Boyz** won a tag team tables invitational match ... **Chris Jericho** beat **X-Pac** in a steel cage match ... **Val Venis & Steven Richards** defeated **Chyna & Billy Gunn** ... **Steve Austin** and **Rikishi** wrestled to a no-contest ... European champion **William Regal** beat **Midian** ... **Edge & Christian** (as **The Conquistadors**) defeated World tag team champions **The Hardy Boyz** to win the title ... **Triple-H** beat **Chris Benoit** ... **Kurt Angle** defeated World champion **The Rock** to win the title.
(October 22)

**WCW HALLOWEEN HAVOC (Las Vegas, NV, MGM Grand Garden Arena):** World tag team champions **Mark Jindrak & Sean O'Haire** beat **Rey Misterio Jr. & Billy Kidman** and **Boogie Knights** in a three-way match ... Hardcore champion **Reno** defeated **Sgt. A-Wall** ... **Lt. Loco & Cpl. Cajun** beat **The Perfect Event** ... **Konnan & Tygress** defeated **Shane Douglas & Torrie Wilson** ... **Buff Bagwell** beat **David Flair** in a DNA match ... **Mike Sanders** defeated **Ernest Miller** in a three-round kickboxing match to become the sole commissioner of WCW ... **Mike Awesome** beat **Vampiro** ... **Gen. Rection** beat U.S. champion **Lance Storm** and **Jim Duggan** in a handicap match to win the title ... **Jeff Jarrett** defeated **Sting** ... World champion **Booker T** beat **Scott Steiner** by disqualification ... **Bill Goldberg** defeated **Kronic.**
(October 29)

**ECW NOVEMBER TO REMEMBER (Villa Park, IL, The Odeum): Simon Diamond & Swinger** beat **Christian York & Joey Matthews** ... **Kid Kash** defeated **C.W. Anderson** ... **Spike Dudley, Danny Doring, & Roadkill** beat **E.Z. Money, Chris Hamrick, & Julio Dinero** ... **Nova** defeated **Chris Chetti** in a loser-leaves-ECW match ... **Mahoney & Chilly Willy** beat **Da Baldies** in a flaming tables match ... TV champ **Rhino** defeated **New Jack** ... World tag team champions **Little Guido Maritato & Tony Mamaluke** beat **Yoshihiro Tajiri & Super Crazy** ... **Steve Corino** won a "Double Jeopardy" match also featuring World champion **Jerry Lynn, Justin Credible,** and **The Sandman,** by pinning The Sandman and then Credible to win the title.
(November 5)

**WWF SURVIVOR SERIES (Tampa, FL, Ice Palace): Molly Holly, Crash Holly, & Steve Blackman** defeated **Trish Stratus, Test, & Albert** ... **Eddie Guerrero, Chris Benoit, Perry Saturn, & Dean Malenko** beat **Billy Gunn, Chyna, Road Dogg, & K-Kwik** in an eight-man tag team elimination match ... **Kane** beat **Chris Jericho** ... European champion **William Regal** defeated **Hardcore Holly** by disqualification ... **The Rock** beat **Rikishi** ... Women's champion **Ivory** defeated **Lita** ... World champion **Kurt Angle** beat **The Undertaker** ... **The Hardy Boyz & The Dudley Boyz** defeated **Edge, Christian, The Goodfather, & Val Venis** in an eight-man tag team elimination match ... **Steve Austin** and **Triple-H** fought to a no-contest.
(November 19)

**WCW MAYHEM (Milwaukee, WI, U.S. Cellular Arena):** Cruiserweight champion **Mike Sanders** beat **Kwee-Wee** ... **Shane Helms & Shannon Moore** beat **Evan Karagias & Jamie Noble** and **The Jung Dragons** in a three-way match ... **Mancow** beat **Jimmy Hart** ... Hardcore champion **Crowbar** defeated **Big Vito** and **Reno** in a three-way match ... **Billy Kidman & Rey Misterio Jr.** beat **Alex Wright & Kronik** in a handicap match ... **Shane Douglas** defeated **Ernest Miller** ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** beat **Sgt. A-Wall** ... **Gen. Rection** beat U.S. champion **Lance Storm** to win the title ... **Jeff Jarrett** defeated **Buff Bagwell** ... **Kevin Nash & Dallas Page** beat World tag team champions **Chuck Palumbo & Shawn Stasiak** to win the title ... **Bill Goldberg** defeated **Lex Luger** ... **Scott Steiner** beat World champion **Booker T** in a cage match to win the title.
(November 26)

**ECW MASSACRE ON 34TH STREET (New York, NY, Hammerstein Ballroom): Simon Diamond & Swinger** beat **Joey Matthews & Christian York** ... **E.Z. Money** defeated **Mahoney** ... **Nova** beat **Julio Dinero** ... **Danny Doring & Roadkill** defeated World tag team champions **Little Guido Maritato & Tony Mamaluke** to win the title ... **C.W. Anderson** beat **Tommy Dreamer** ... TV champion **Rhino** defeated **Spike Dudley** ... **Yoshihiro Tajiri & Mikey Whipwreck** beat **Super Crazy & Kid Kash** ... World champion **Steve Corino** beat **Justin Credible** and **Jerry Lynn** in an elimination match.
(December 3)

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## ringside

*(Continued from page 13)*

**Stan Hansen wraps his big arms around Mike Barton. After enjoying a very successful 27-year career, the big Texan decided to call it quits this winter.**

announcement on November 19, saying that Hansen would wrestle one last match at the Tokyo Dome on January 28. After a 27-year career, much of which was spent in the stiff atmosphere of Japanese rings, Hansen's body had deteriorated to the point that it was taking him longer and longer to recoup from one match, let alone an entire tour.

Hansen was voted Most Hated Award in 1976, the year his and **Bruno Sammartino's** match at Shea Stadium was voted Match of the Year.

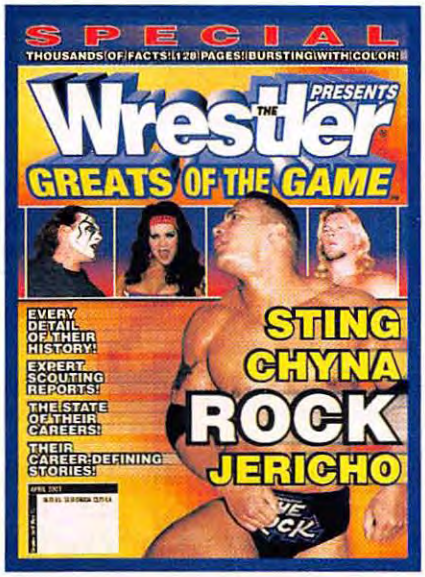
The music world suffered a not-so-great loss when **Evan Karagias,** leader of **Three Count,** left the trio to start tagging with another trio refugee, **Jamie Noble,** formerly **Jamie-San** of **The Jung Dragons.** Though Three Count is now more like Two Count, the remaining members of the group, **Shane Helms** and **Shannon Moore,** plan to continue with both their recording and wrestling careers.

"Hey, man, two's company, three's a crowd," Moore said while taking a break from his songwriting duties. "Evan's voice stank anyway. He was out in front because he made for a good pretty boy, but he lip-synched all his lyrics. It wasn't even his voice on the tape! Shane and I are so much better without him."

Sounds like a setup for a Losers-Loses-Larynx match.

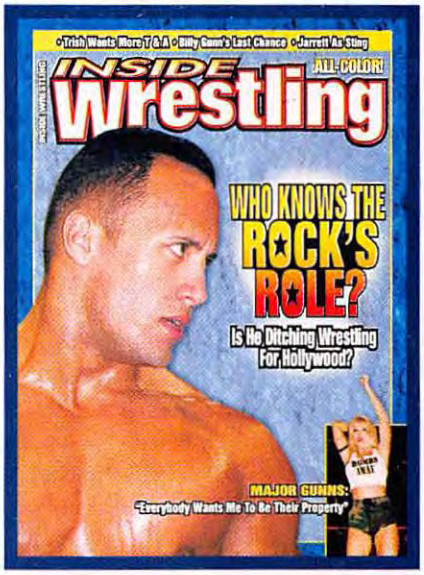
That's it for me this month, fans. Enjoy your wanderings. □

# this month in...




You want comprehensive bios on some of your favorite superstars? We'll give you them *and* much, much more! Besides bios on **THE ROCK**, **STING**, **CHYNA**, and **CHRIS JERICHO**, we have dozens of amazing full-color photos (including many full-page pinups) of these outstanding athletes ... We'll also give you "The State Of" The Rock, Sting, Chyna, and Y2J, as well as more detailed scouting reports on each one of them than you'll find anywhere ... *And* we've selected a classic career-defining feature on each star!

All this—and much more!—
in the April 2001 issue of
***Greats Of The Game***




Is there much more for **THE ROCK** to accomplish in the world of sports entertainment? He's a few years shy of his 30th birthday, and already he's *huge* star. Might he move on to Hollywood full-time? ... **JEFF JARRETT** thinks he's a pretty funny guy dressing as **STING** and mocking him. He might have woken up a slumbering "Stinger," though! ... What exactly does **TRISH STRATUS** mean when she says the WWF "needs more T & A"? Probably not what you think ... We'll explain why the pressure is on **BILLY GUNN**!

All this—and much more!—
in the March 2001 issue of
***Inside Wrestling***

# between falls

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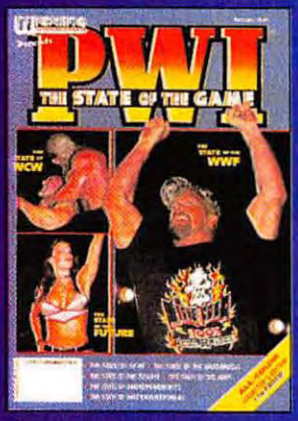
## STATE-ING THE FACTS




As the staff of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED discussed doing another *State Of The Game* issue, everyone involved got increasingly excited. It had been more than two years since *PWI* had examined the sport so thoroughly, and given all the changes the sport had undergone since 1998, we were certainly due to give it another go.

The February 2001 issue—titled *PWI: The State Of The Game*—was the result of weeks of grueling work and seemingly endless analysis. But it all paid off. Response to the issue from our always critical readers was nothing short of glowing.

"What an issue you guys put out," wrote Cliff Neader of Laguna Hills, California. "You guys didn't candy-coat anything, proving to me that you're more than just a mouthpiece for the federations."

"After showing *The State Of The Game* to my friends, they all had to go out and get the issue for themselves," wrote Daniel Oplinger of Columbus, Ohio. "That says a lot in my book."

"Just a great issue, guys," wrote Henrik Schmidt of Dusseldorf, Germany. "Maybe your best yet."

## YOU'VE NOTICED!

I would just like to let you fine publishers of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED know that I think you've done a tremendous job improving your magazine. I enjoy receiving it in the mail each month and thought you were doing a great job anyway.

While I haven't yet seen the new *Inside Wrestling*, I have received the new *Wrestling Superstars* and am pleased with its new look as well. I also look forward to seeing the new *Wrestle America* and *Wrestler* editions.

Great job and thanks for the fantastic photos, especially the ones of Torrie Wilson.

STEVE WETHINGTON
Hardinsburg, KY

## REALLY?

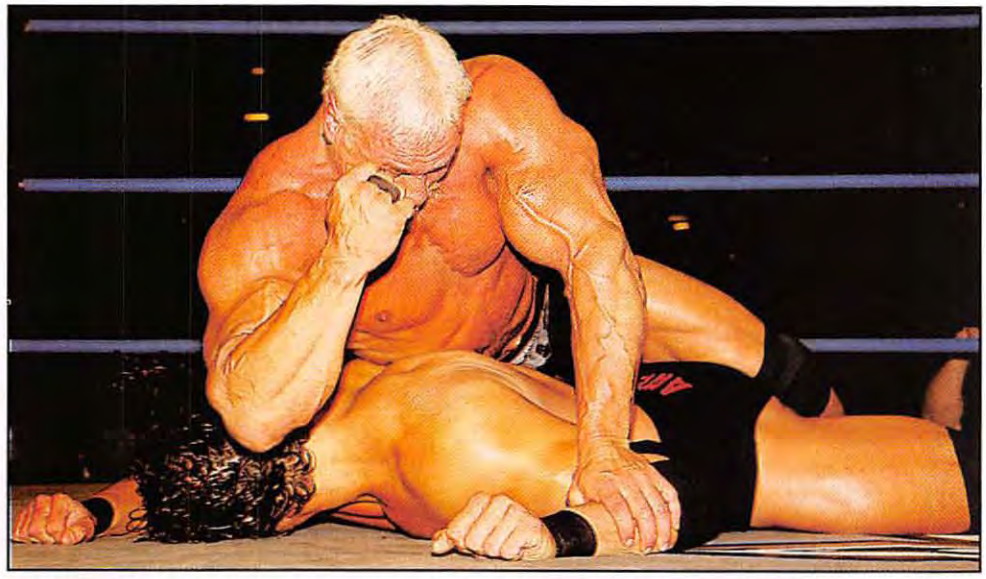
I've been trying to give *Nitro* a chance, but most of the show is boring. They've gotten rid of The Millionaires Club and seem to be using Power Plant guys for the most part. The only entertaining parts of the show are the segments featuring Scott Steiner, Bill Goldberg, and Booker T. It now seems apparent that too much credit was given to Vince Russo for the WWF turnaround.

ANDRE WADE
awade@mymailstation.com

## STATE OF *STATE OF THE GAME*

*PWI's State Of The Game* issue was absolutely brilliant. I really hope the issue becomes a yearly endeavor. Not only was it a very entertaining read, it also educated me. I had no idea the independent scene was in so much trouble. With so much talent out there, you have to wonder why that is so. I know that if I was given the choice to spend $30 on a *Nitro* ticket or $12 on a local indy show where the guys are busting their butts trying to make it to *Nitro*, I'd certainly spend the $12 on the indy show (I'd also probably spend the $30 on *Nitro* as well, but that's neither here nor there).

All in all, I thought the issue was very



**Scott Steiner drives his elbow into Mike Awesome's head. Reader Andre Wade thinks that "Big Poppa Pump's" segments are some of the only redeeming facets of WCW programming.**

well done. I tip my hat to you guys.

CHAD WORL
Olney Springs, CO

## MAKING IT SOUND SO EASY ...

Given WCW's recent success overseas, why doesn't the company just pick up, move to Europe, and start fresh? Seems like they'd be pretty successful.

FRANKLIN MEWS
Lugoff, SC

## ANOTHER GORDON TRIBUTE

I get *PWI* every month. I really liked the big piece on Gordon Solie ("Farewell Father, A Tribute To Gordon Solie," January 2001). He was my all-time favorite for a number of years. I even watched him as a kid. Needless to say, I was shocked to hear about his death.

He will always be the greatest of all-time and will be missed.

RICK FAGAN
Warren, OH

## WORLD BELONGS TO CHYNA

How long will it be before the McMahons and the fans realize that the true superstar in the WWF is not Steve Austin, The Rock, or Triple-H. No, the true superstar is and has been Chyna. That's right, Chyna!

She paid her dues the hard way, by competing and beating some of the top men in the sport.

I couldn't believe it when, as a tag team partner of Billy Gunn on *Smackdown*, she pressed Eddie Guerrero over her head, executed a magnificent backflip, and went on to pin him. And Eddie is one of the best there is!

It doesn't stop there! She's put bodybuilding on the map for both men and women and is admired the world over by both men and women because of it.

KURTIS C. WOLF
Glendale, AZ

## QUOTE JEFF, NEVERMORE ...

With the addition of Raven, I am now 100 percent convinced that the WWF's talent roster is as strong as it has been in the last 10 years. I believe with proper placement and bookings, Raven can be as strong—if not stronger—than he was during his run with WCW.

JEFF SEGER
Pembroke, MA

## VAN TERMINATED?

Right around Thanksgiving, I heard a rumor that Rob Van Dam was looking to quit ECW. I really hope that's not the case. Right now, ECW only has a handful of headliners, and if Van Dam is taken out of that mix, his absence will damage the promotion immeasurably. Who will be left for Jerry Lynn to wrestle? I know that Super Crazy and Yoshihiro Tajiri are unbelievable wrestlers, but, honestly, they aren't world title-caliber wrestlers.

Again, I hope Paul Heyman doesn't lose Van Dam, because if he does, he could feasibly lose ECW in the process.

SUSAN PICARD
Jordan, NY

**Could Rob Van Dam (with Bill Alfonso) really be thinking about leaving ECW? That's the rumor reader Susan Picard heard in November. As of press time, however, RVD was still under the employ of Paul Heyman and ECW.**

## THE MURPH'S FIRST LETTER

I'm glad to see that you guys at *PWI* have given space to yet another quality columnist. Ever since debuting in the January issue of *PWI*, Dan Murphy's "The Straight Shooter" has been one of the best columns featured in the magazine. The photo of him looking dumbfounded at The Sinister Minister while his notes burned to a crisp was absolutely priceless.

JOSEPH P. CROOKLY
Flourtown, PA

## LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT TROUBLES

With all the light heavyweight talent the WWF possesses, why has the company seemingly given up on the light heavyweight division? WCW proved years ago that a light heavyweight or cruiserweight division can be a highly successful venture if done properly, and I have no doubt the WWF could do it properly, so why has it been given up? It seems like all the light heavyweight belt is useful for these days is to make Dean Malenko look like he's actually been successful in the federation.

MELISSA GARLAND
Winkler, TX □

## *PWI* HOTLINE EXTRA!

### YOUR ANSWERS TO OUR QUESTION OF THE WEEK!

**Question of the Week: Will Ric Flair's return to WCW as the promotion's CEO help the company get back on track? (October 31 to November 6, 2000)**

**Hotline callers respond: "Sure, bringing Ric Flair back as the CEO can only help WCW," said Bradley Higgins of Ocean City, Maryland. "Flair sure won't hurt the company. He's got a great mind for the business."**

**"I don't know about Flair anymore," said Kris Reaps of Colorado Springs, Colorado. "It's really a shame, but I think his time as a draw may be over."**

**"The 'Nature Boy' has always been one of my idols," said Pete Wassink of Fargo, North Dakota. "If there's one man that can make WCW successful again, it's definitely Flair."**

# PWI SUPERSTATS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:

# PAST WINNERS

**This is a complete listing of all *PWI* Achievement Award winners, including three categories that are no longer awarded. We've also provided a comprehensive listing of runners-up (which were first reported in 1976) for all awards. Award winners were first presented annually in the pages of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED effective with our March 1982 issue. Prior to that, awards appeared in *Sports Review Wrestling* (1980 awards in the March 1981 edition), *Sports Review Wrestling Annual* (1977-79 awards in Spring 1978, '79, and '80 editions), and *Victory Sports Series Wrestling Annual* and *Yearbook* editions (1972-76 awards in issues #4, 7, 11, 14, and 18).**

## WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

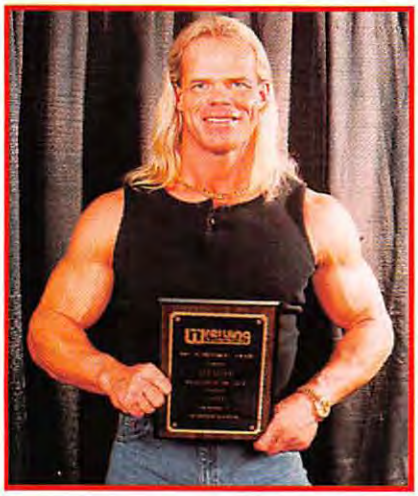
**1999: Steve Austin**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Rock, 2—Sting, 3—Tazz

**1998: Steve Austin**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bill Goldberg, 2—Dallas Page, 3—Rocky Maivia

**1997: Lex Luger**
**Runners-up:** 1—Steve Austin, 2— The Undertaker, 3—Dallas Page

**1996: The Giant**
**Runners-up:** 1—Shawn Michaels, 2—Ric Flair, 3—Ahmed Johnson

**1995: Diesel**
**Runners-up:** 1—Shawn Michaels, 2—Sting, 3—Hulk Hogan



Lex Luger

**1994: Hulk Hogan**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bret Hart, 2—Razor Ramon, 3—Ric Flair

**1993: Big Van Vader**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bret Hart, 2—Shawn Michaels, 3—Yokozuna

**1992: Ric Flair**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ron Simmons, 2—Rick Rude, 3—Bret Hart

**1991: Hulk Hogan**
**Runners-up:** 1—Lex Luger, 2—Bret Hart, 3—Sting

**1990: Sting**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ultimate Warrior, 2—Hulk Hogan, 3—Lex Luger

**1989: Ric Flair**
**Runners-up:** 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Lex Luger, 3—Rick Steamboat

**1988: Randy Savage**
**Runners-up:** 1—Jerry Lawler, 2—Lex Luger, 3—Ric Flair

**1987: Hulk Hogan**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ric Flair, 2—Randy Savage, 3—Steve Williams

**1986: Ric Flair**
**Runners-up:** 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Randy Savage, 3—Nikita Koloff

**1985: Ric Flair**
**Runners-up:** 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Rick Martel, 3—Sgt. Slaughter

**1984: Ric Flair**
**Runners-up:** 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Kerry Von Erich, 3—Rick Martel

**1983: Harley Race**
**Runners-up:** 1—Nick Bockwinkel, 2—Andre the Giant, 3—Bob Backlund

**1982: Bob Backlund**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ric Flair, 2—Hulk Hogan, 3—Jimmy Snuka

**1981: Ric Flair**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bob Backlund, 2—Tommy Rich, 3—Dusty Rhodes

**1980: Bob Backlund**
**Runners-up:** 1—Harley Race, 2—Verne Gagne, 3—The Iron Sheik

**1979: Harley Race**
**Runners-up:** 1—Dusty Rhodes, 2—Jimmy Snuka, 3—Bob Backlund

**1978: Dusty Rhodes**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bob Backlund, 2—Rick Steamboat, 3—Harley Race

**1977: Dusty Rhodes**
**Runners-up:** 1—Superstar Graham, 2—Bob Backlund, 3—Harley Race

**1976: Terry Funk**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bruno Sammartino, 2—Nick Bockwinkel, 3—Paul Jones

**1975: Mr. Wrestling II**

**1974: Bruno Sammartino**

**1973: Jack Brisco**

**1972: Pedro Morales**

## TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

**1999: Kane & X-Pac**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Hardy Boyz, 2—Harlem Heat, 3—The

Dudley Boyz

**1998: The New Age Outlaws**
**Runners-up:** 1—Sabu & Rob Van Dam, 2—Kane & Mankind, 3—Kane & The Undertaker

**1997: Scott Hall & Kevin Nash**
**Runners-up:** 1—Rick & Scott Steiner, 2—The Road Warriors, 3—Lex Luger & The Giant

**1996: Harlem Heat**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Eliminators, 2—Rick & Scott Steiner, 3—The Gangstas

**1995: Harlem Heat**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Smokin' Gunns, 2—Owen Hart & Yokozuna, 3—Rick & Scott Steiner

**1994: The Nasty Boys**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Headshrinkers, 2—Public Enemy, 3—The Rock 'n' Roll Express

**1993: Rick & Scott Steiner**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Hollywood Blonds, 2—Money Inc., 3—The Heavenly Bodies

**1992: Terry Gordy & Steve Williams**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Natural Disasters, 2—Rick & Scott Steiner, 3—Barry Windham & Dustin Rhodes

**1991: Larry Zbyszko & Arn Anderson**
**Runners-up:** 1—Legion of Doom, 2—Rick & Scott Steiner, 3—Robert Fuller & Jeff Jarrett

**1990: Rick & Scott Steiner**
**Runners-up:** 1—Demolition, 2—Doom, 3—Legion of Doom

**1989: Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson**
**Runners-up:** 1—Demolition, 2—The Road Warriors, 3—Jim Garvin & Michael Hayes

**1988: The Road Warriors**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Midnight Express, 2—Demolition, 3—Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson

**1987: The Midnight Express**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Hart Foundation, 2—The Road Warriors, 3—The Rock 'n' Roll Express

**1986: The Rock 'n' Roll Express**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Road Warriors, 2—The British Bulldogs, 3—The Midnight Rockers

**1985: The Road Warriors**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ted DiBiase & Steve Williams, 2—Ivan & Nikita Koloff, 3—The British Bulldogs

**1984: The Road Warriors**
**Runners-up:** 1—Kerry, Kevin, & Mike Von Erich, 2—The Fabulous Ones, 3—The Rock 'n' Roll Express

**1983: The Road Warriors**
**Runners-up:** 1—Kerry, Kevin, & David Von Erich, 2—Michael Hayes, Terry Gordy, & Buddy Roberts, 3—Jack & Jerry Brisco

**1982: Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell**
**Runners-up:** 1—Mr. Fuji & Mr. Saito, 2—The Freebirds, 3—Ole Anderson & Stan Hansen

**1981: The Fabulous Freebirds**
**Runners-up:** 1—Rick Martel & Tony Garea, 2—Mr. Fuji & Mr. Saito, 3—Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell

**1980: Jimmy Snuka & Ray Stevens**
**Runners-up:** 1—Mr. Wrestling & Mr. Wrestling II, 2—The Samoans, 3—Verne Gagne & Mad Dog Vachon

**1979: Ivan Putski & Tito Santana**
**Runners-up:** 1—Jerry & Johnny Valiant, 2—Paul Jones & Baron Von Raschke, 3—The Spoiler & Mark Lewin

**1978: Rick Steamboat & Paul Jones**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Yukon Lumberjacks, 2—Mike Graham & Steve Keirn, 3—Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell

**1977: Gene & Ole Anderson**
**Runners-up:** 1—Mr. Fuji & Prof. Tanaka, 2—Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell, 3—Ric Flair & Greg Valentine

**1976: The Executioners**
**Runners-up:** 1—Gene & Ole Anderson, 2—Billy White Wolf & Chief Jay Strongbow, 3—Jimmy & Johnny Valiant

**1975: Gene & Ole Anderson**

**1974: Jimmy & Johnny Valiant**

**1973: Nick Bockwinkel & Ray Stevens**

**1972: Bruiser & Crusher**

## MATCH OF THE YEAR

**1999: The Rock vs. Mankind**
**Runners-up:** 1—Rob Van Dam vs. Jerry Lynn, 2—Steve Austin vs. Vince McMahon, 3—The Rock vs. Steve Austin

**1998: The Undertaker vs. Mankind**
**Runners-up:** 1—Shawn Michaels vs. Steve Austin, 2—Bill Goldberg vs. Hollywood Hogan, 3—Taz vs. Bam Bam Bigelow

**1997: Bret Hart vs. Steve Austin**
**Runners-up:** 1—Eddy Guerrero vs. Rey Misterio Jr., 2—Shawn Michaels vs. The Undertaker, 3—Terry Funk vs. The Sandman vs. Stevie Richards

**1996: Shawn Michaels vs. Bret Hart**
**Runners-up:** 1—Shawn Michaels vs. Mankind, 2—Sabu vs. Rob Van Dam, 3—War Games

**1995: Diesel vs. Shawn Michaels**
**Runners-up:** 1—Jeff Jarrett vs. Shawn Michaels, 2—Harlem Heat vs. The Nasty Boys, 3—Psicosis vs. Rey Misterio Jr.

**Shawn Michaels vs. Razor Ramon**

**1994: Shawn Michaels vs. Razor Ramon**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Nasty Boys vs. Cactus Jack & Maxx Payne, 2—Ric Flair vs. Hulk Hogan, 3—Alundra Blayze vs. Bull Nakano

**1993: Shawn Michaels vs. Marty Jannetty**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Steiners vs. Heavenly Bodies, 2—Rick Rude vs. Dustin Rhodes, 3—Cactus Jack vs. Big Van Vader

**1992: Davey Boy Smith vs. Bret Hart**
**Runners-up:** 1—Brian Pillman vs. Jushin Liger, 2—Royal Rumble, 3—Rick Steamboat vs. Rick Rude

**1991: The Steiners vs. Sting & Lex Luger**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bret Hart vs. Curt Hennig, 2—Lex Luger vs. Ron Simmons, 3—Cactus Jack vs. Eddie Gilbert

**1990: Hulk Hogan vs. Ultimate Warrior (Warrior wins WWF World title)**
**Runners-up:** 1—Sting vs. Ric Flair, 2—Hulk Hogan vs. Earthquake, 3—Royal Rumble

**1989: Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat (Flair wins his sixth NWA World title)**
**Runners-up:** 1—Hulk Hogan vs. Randy Savage, 2—Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat, 3—Eric Embry vs. P.Y. Chu-Hi

**1988: Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan (Andre wins WWF World title)**
**Runners-up:** 1—Sting vs. Ric Flair, 2—Jerry Lawler vs. Curt Hennig, 3—Ultimate Warrior vs. Honky Tonk Man

**1987: Rick Steamboat vs. Randy Savage (Steamboat wins WWF I-C title)**
**Runners-up:** 1—War Games/The Match Beyond I, 2—Hulk Hogan vs. Andre the Giant, 3—Ronnie Garvin vs. Ric Flair

**1986: Dusty Rhodes vs. Ric Flair (Dusty wins NWA World title at Great American Bash)**

**Runners-up:** 1—The British Bulldogs vs. Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake, 2—The Road Warriors vs. Ronnie Garvin & Magnum T.A., 3—Hulk Hogan vs. Paul Orndorff

**1985: Hulk Hogan & Mr. T vs. Roddy Piper & Paul Orndorff (WrestleMania I)**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Road Warriors vs. Ivan & Nikita Koloff, 2—Ric Flair vs. Nikita Koloff, 3—Rick Martel vs. Bob Backlund

**1984: Kerry Von Erich vs. Ric Flair (Von Erich captures NWA World title)**
**Runners-up:** 1—Rick Martel vs. Jumbo Tsuruta, 2—Hulk Hogan vs. The Iron Sheik, 3—Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat

**1983: Harley Race vs. Ric Flair (Race wins seventh NWA World title)**
**Runners-up:** 1—Rick Steamboat & Jay Youngblood vs. Sgt. Slaughter & Don Kernodle, 2—Don Muraco vs. Pedro Morales, 3—Tommy Rich vs. Buzz Sawyer

**1982: Bob Backlund vs. Jimmy Snuka (cage match)**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bob Backlund vs. Ric Flair, 2—Nick Bockwinkel vs. Otto Wanz, 3—Nick Bockwinkel vs. Otto Wanz

**1981: Andre the Giant vs. Killer Khan**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ric Flair vs. Dusty Rhodes, 2—Bob Backlund vs. Don Muraco, 3—Michael Hayes vs. Terry Gordy

**1980: Bruno Sammartino vs. Larry Zbyszko (cage match)**
**Runners-up:** 1—Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan, 2—Verne Gagne vs. Nick Bockwinkel, 3—Dusty Rhodes vs. Bob Backlund

**1979: Dusty Rhodes vs. Harley Race (Rhodes wins NWA World title)**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bob Backlund vs. Pat Patterson, 2—Nick Bockwinkel vs. Bob Backlund, 3—Mr. Wrestling II vs. Ernie Ladd

**1978: Bob Backlund vs. Superstar Graham (Backlund wins WWF World title)**
**Runners-up:** 1—Blackjack Mulligan vs. Ric Flair, 2—Dusty Rhodes vs. Superstar Graham (bullrope match) 3—Rick Steamboat vs. Ric Flair

**1977: Superstar Graham vs. Bruno Sammartino (Graham wins WWF World title)**
**Runners-up:** 1—Dusty Rhodes vs. Superstar Graham, 2—Andre the Giant vs. Ric Flair, 3—Greg Gagne vs. Bob Backlund

**1976: Bruno Sammartino vs. Stan Hansen**
**Runners-up:** 1—Terry Funk vs. Rocky Johnson, 2—Nick Bockwinkel vs. Baron Von Raschke, 3—Andre the Giant vs. Abdullah the Butcher

**1975: Bruno Sammartino vs. Spiros Arion**

**1974: Dory Funk Jr. vs. Jack Brisco**

**1973: Harley Race vs. Dory Funk Jr. (Race wins first NWA World itle)**

**1972: Bruno Sammartino wins 22-man Los Angeles battle royal**

## FEUD OF THE YEAR

**1999: Steve Austin vs. Vince McMahon**
**Runners-up:** Triple-H vs. The Rock, 2—Jerry Lynn vs. Rob Van Dam, 3—Ric Flair vs. Hulk Hogan

**1998: Steve Austin vs. Vince McMahon**
**Runners-up:** 1—NWO Wolfpac vs. NWO Hollywood, 2—Ric Flair vs. Eric Bischoff, 3—Rocky Maivia vs. Ken Shamrock

**1997: Randy Savage vs. Dallas Page**
**Runners-up:** 1—Steve Austin vs. Bret Hart, 2—Hulk Hogan vs Roddy Piper, 3—Sabu vs. Taz

**1996: Eric Bischoff vs. Vince McMahon**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ric Flair vs. Randy Savage, 2—Mankind vs. The Undertaker, 3—Jamie Dundee vs. Wolfie D

**1995: Axl Rotten vs. Ian Rotten**
**Runners-up:** 1—Harlem Heat vs. The Nasty Boys, 2—Jeff Jarrett vs. Razor Ramon, 3—Ric Flair vs. Randy Savage

**1994: Bret Hart vs. Owen Hart**
**Runners-up:** 1—Hulk Hogan vs. Ric Flair, 2—Randy Savage vs. Crush, 3—Sabu vs. Terry Funk

**1993: Bret Hart vs. Jerry Lawler**
**Runners-up:** 1—Rick Rude vs. Dustin Rhodes, 2—Cactus Jack vs. Big Van Vader, 3—Tony Anthony vs. Tracey Smothers

**Bret Hart vs. Jerry Lawler**

**1992: The Moondogs vs. Jeff Jarrett & Jerry Lawler**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ric Flair vs. Randy Savage, 2—Ultimate Warrior vs. Papa Shango, 3—Rick Rude vs. Rick Steamboat

**1991: Ultimate Warrior vs. The Undertaker**
**Runners-up:** 1—Hulk Hogan vs. Sgt. Slaughter, 2—Sting vs. Cactus Jack & Abdullah the Butcher, 3—Lex Luger vs. Ron Simmons

**1990: Ric Flair vs. Lex Luger**
**Runners-up:** 1—Hulk Hogan vs. Earthquake, 2—Ultimate Warrior vs. Rick Rude, 3—Chris Adams vs. Steve Austin

**1989: Ric Flair vs. Terry Funk**
**Runners-up:** 1—Hulk Hogan vs. Randy Savage, 2—Akbar's Army vs. Eric Embry, 3—Roddy Piper vs. Rick Rude

**1988: Ric Flair vs. Lex Luger**
**Runners-up:** 1—Rick Rude vs. Jake Roberts, 2—Kerry Von Erich vs. Jerry Lawler, 3—Hulk Hogan & Randy Savage vs. Ted DiBiase & Andre the Giant

**1987: Four Horsemen vs. Superpowers & Road Warriors**
**Runners-up:** 1—Randy Savage vs. Rick Steamboat, 2—Jerry Lawler vs. Tommy Rich & Austin Idol, 3—Brian Adias vs. Kevin Von Erich

**1986: Hulk Hogan vs. Paul Orndorff**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ric Flair vs. Dusty Rhodes, 2—The Sheepherders vs. The Fantastics, 3—The Midnight Express vs. The Rock 'n' Roll Express

## MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

**1999: The Rock**
**Runners-up:** 1—Steve Austin, 2—Bill Goldberg, 3—Mankind

**1998: Steve Austin**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bill Goldberg, 2—Rocky Maivia, 3—Dallas Page

**1997: Sting**
**Runners-up:** 1—Steve Austin, 2—Ric Flair, 3—Dallas Page

**1996: Shawn Michaels**
**Runners-up:** 1—Randy Savage, 2—"Psycho" Sid Vicious, 3—The Undertaker

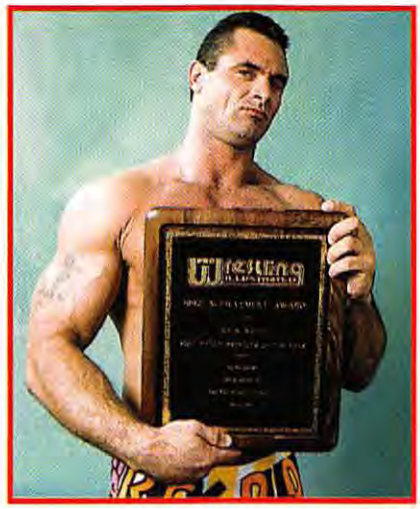
**1995: Shawn Michaels**
**Runners-up:** 1—Sting, 2—Diesel, 3—Hulk Hogan

**1994: Sting**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bret Hart, 2— The Undertaker, 3—Hulk Hogan

**1993: Lex Luger**
**Runners-up:** 1—Sting, 2—Bret Hart, 3—Dustin Rhodes
**1992: Sting**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Ultimate Warrior, 2—The Undertaker, 3—Ron Simmons
**1991: Sting**
**Runners-up:** 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Sid Justice, 3—Rick & Scott Steiner
**1990: Hulk Hogan**
**Runners-up:** 1—Sting, 2—Ultimate Warrior, 3—Lex Luger
**1989: Hulk Hogan**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ric Flair, 2—Sting, 3—The Ultimate Warrior
**1988: Randy Savage**
**Runners-up:** 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Sting, 3—Lex Luger
**1987: Dusty Rhodes**
**Runners-up:** 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Randy Savage, 3—Nikita Koloff
**1986: Roddy Piper**
**Runners-up:** 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Rick Morton, 3—Nikita Koloff
**1985: Hulk Hogan**
**Runners-up:** 1—Magnum T.A., 2—Kerry Von Erich, 3—Tito Santana
**1984: Kerry Von Erich**
**Runners-up:** 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Dusty Rhodes, 3—Sgt. Slaughter
**1983: Jimmy Snuka**
**Runners-up:** 1—Dusty Rhodes, 2—David Von Erich, 3—Junkyard Dog
**1982: Andre the Giant**
**Runners-up:** 1—Tommy Rich, 2—Hulk Hogan, 3—Dusty Rhodes
**1981: Tommy Rich**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bob Backlund, 2—Andre the Giant, 3—Dusty Rhodes
**1980: Mr. Wrestling II**
**Runners-up:** 1—Dusty Rhodes, 2—Andre the Giant, 3—Bruno Sammartino
**1979: Dusty Rhodes**
**Runners-up:** 1—Andre the Giant, 2—Ivan Putski, 3—Mr. Wrestling II
**1978: Dusty Rhodes**
**Runners-up:** 1—Andre the Giant, 2—Rick Steamboat, 3—Bob Backlund
**1977: Andre the Giant**
**Runners-up:** 1—Dusty Rhodes, 2—Bob Backlund, 3—Mil Mascaras
**1976: Wahoo McDaniel**
**Runners-up:** 1—Chief Jay Strongbow, 2—Mr. Wrestling II, 3—Ivan Putski
**1975: Mil Mascaras**
**1974: Billy Robinson**
**1973: Chief Jay Strongbow**
**1972: Jack Brisco/Fred Curry (tie)**

## MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

**1999: Dallas Page**
**Runners-up:** 1—Triple-H, 2—The Undertaker, 3—The Dudley Boyz
**1998: Hollywood Hogan**
**Runners-up:** 1—Vince McMahon, 2—Eric Bischoff, 3—Bret Hart
**1997: Bret Hart**
**Runners-up:** 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Owen Hart, 3—Curt Hennig
**1996: Hulk Hogan**
**Runners-up:** 1—Goldust, 2—Jerry Lawler, 3—The Giant
**1995: Jerry Lawler**
**Runners-up:** 1—Kevin Sullivan, 2—The Gangstas, 3—Davey Boy Smith
**1994: Bob Backlund**
**Runners-up:** 1—Owen Hart, 2—Big Van Vader, 3—Jerry Lawler
**1993: Jerry Lawler**
**Runners-up:** 1—Big Van Vader, 2—Yokozuna, 3—Shawn Michaels



Rick Rude

**1992: Rick Rude**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ric Flair, 2—Jake Roberts, 3—The Moondogs
**1991: Sgt. Slaughter**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Undertaker, 2—Lex Luger, 3—Jake Roberts
**1990: Earthquake**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ric Flair, 2—Rick Rude, 3—Eddie Gilbert
**1989: Randy Savage**
**Runners-up:** 1—Terry Funk, 2—Rick Rude, 3—Lex Luger
**1988: Andre the Giant**
**Runners-up:** 1—Barry Windham, 2—Eddie Gilbert, 3—Ted DiBiase
**1987: Ric Flair**
**Runners-up:** 1—Andre the Giant, 2—Honky Tonk Man, 3—Lex Luger
**1986: Paul Orndorff**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ric Flair, 2—Col. DeBeers, 3—Rick Rude
**1985: Roddy Piper**
**Runners-up:** 1—Chris Adams, 2—Ted DiBiase, 3—John Studd
**1984: Roddy Piper**
**Runners-up:** 1—Kevin Sullivan, 2—Tully Blanchard, 3—The Iron Sheik
**1983: Greg Valentine**
**Runners-up:** 1—Masked Superstar, 2—Kevin Sullivan, 3—Michael Hayes
**1982: Ted DiBiase**
**Runners-up:** 1—Blackjack Mulligan, 2—Superstar Graham, 3—Buzz Sawyer
**1981: Ken Patera**
**Runners-up:** 1—Don Muraco, 2—Nick Bockwinkel, 3—Roddy Piper
**1980: Larry Zbyszko**
**Runners-up:** 1—Greg Valentine, 2—Ernie Ladd, 3—Hulk Hogan
**1979: Greg Valentine**
**Runners-up:** 1—Terry Funk, 2—Ken Patera, 3—Ivan Koloff
**1978: Ric Flair**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ken Patera, 2—Victor Rivera, 3—Bob Orton Jr.
**1977: Ken Patera**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ric Flair, 2— Superstar Graham, 3—Nick Bockwinkel
**1976: Stan Hansen**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ox Baker, 2—Terry Funk, 3—The Spoiler
**1975: Greg Valentine**
**1974: The Great Mephisto**
**1973: Superstar Graham**
**1972: The Sheik**

## MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

**1999: Jerry Lynn**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Hardy Boyz, 2—Bob Holly, 3—Kanyon
**1998: Booker T**
**Runners-up:** 1—D-Lo Brown, 2—The New Age Outlaws, 3—Juventud Guerrera
**1997: Ken Shamrock**
**Runners-up:** 1—Steve McMichael, 2—The Headbangers, 3—Alex Wright
**1996: Ahmed Johnson**
**Runners-up:** 1—Chris Benoit, 2— Stevie Richards, 3—Taz
**1995: "Diamond" Dallas Page**
**Runners-up:** 1—Tommy Dreamer, 2—Harlem Heat, 3—Savio Vega
**1994: Diesel**
**Runners-up:** 1—Johnny B. Badd, 2—Sabu, 3—Owen Hart
**1993: Yokozuna**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Kid, 2—Brian Lee, 3—Tatanka
**1992: Razor Ramon**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ron Simmons, 2— Virgil, 3—Brian Christopher
**1991: Dustin Rhodes**

**Runners-up:** 1—Ron Simmons, 2—The Undertaker, 3—Crush

**1990: Paul Roma**
**Runners-up:** 1—Doom, 2—Tugboat, 3—Cactus Jack

**1989: Scott Steiner**
**Runners-up:** 1—Brutus Beefcake, 2—Jeff Jarrett, 3—P.Y. Chu-Hi

**1988: Sting**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Ultimate Warrior, 2—Iceman Parsons, 3—Jeff Jarrett

**1987: Curt Hennig**
**Runners-up:** 1—Al Perez, 2—Honky Tonk Man, 3—Sting

**1986: Terry Gordy**
**Runners-up:** 1—Scott Hall, 2—Sam Houston, 3—Wendell Cooley

**1985: Steve Williams**
**Runners-up:** 1—Brian Adias, 2—Nikita Koloff, 3—Randy Savage

**1984: Billy Jack Haynes**
**Runners-up:** 1—Magnum T.A., 2—Rick Martel, 3—Ronnie Garvin

**1983: Brett Wayne Sawyer**
**Runners-up:** 1—Mike Rotundo, 2—Pez Whatley, 3—Brad Rheingans

**1982: Barry Windham**
**Runners-up:** 1—Otto Wanz, 2—Buzz Sawyer, 3—Rick Martel

**1981: Kevin Sullivan**
**Runners-up:** 1—Sgt. Slaughter, 2—Charlie Cook, 3—Tito Santana

**1980: Tony Atlas**
**Runners-up:** 1—Larry Zbyszko, 2—Ted DiBiase, 3—Kerry Von Erich

**1979: Tommy Rich**
**Runners-up:** 1—Eddy Mansfield, 2—Kevin Von Erich, 3—Ted DiBiase

**1978: Dino Bravo**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bob Backlund, 2—Rick Steamboat, 3—Tony Atlas

## COMEBACK OF THE YEAR

**1999: Eddie Guerrero**
**Runners-up:** 1—Buff Bagwell, 2—Curt Hennig, 3—Michael Hayes

**1998: X-Pac**
**Runners-up:** 1—Sting, 2—Dean Malenko, 3—The Warrior

**1997: Bret Hart**
**Runners-up:** 1—Curt Hennig, 2—Brian Pillman, 3—Ric Flair

**1996: "Psycho" Sid Vicious**
**Runners-up:** 1—Jake Roberts, 2—Faarooq, 3—Animal

**1995: Randy Savage**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Heavenly Bodies, 2—Savio Vega, 3—The Ultimate Warrior

**1994: Hulk Hogan**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bob Backlund, 2—The Undertaker, 3—Alundra Blayze

**1993: Lex Luger**
**Runners-up:** 1—Brutus Beefcake, 2—Ric Flair, 3—Paul Roma

**1992: The Ultimate Warrior**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bob Backlund, 2—The Sheik, 3—Junkyard Dog

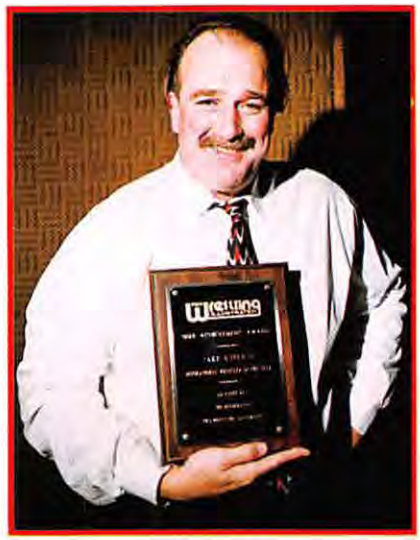
## INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

**1999: Hulk Hogan**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bret Hart, 2—X-Pac, 3—Hacksaw Duggan

**1998: Bill Goldberg**
**Runners-up:** 1—Steve Austin, 2—Mankind, 3—Shane Douglas

**1997: Terry Funk**
**Runners-up:** 1—Steve Austin, 2—Perry Saturn, 3—Roddy Piper

**1996: Jake Roberts**
**Runners-up:** 1—Jushin Liger, 2—Ahmed Johnson, 3—Rey Misterio Jr.



Jake Roberts

**1995: Barry Horowitz**
**Runners-up:** 1—Sabu, 2—Antonio Inoki, 3—Dan Severn

**1994: Bret Hart**
**Runners-up:** 1—Terry Funk, 2—The Guardian Angel, 3—Dave Sullivan

**1993: Cactus Jack**
**Runners-up:** 1—Lex Luger, 2—The Kid, 3—Brutus Beefcake

**1992: Ron Simmons**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Undertaker, 2—Rick Steamboat, 3—Eric Embry

**1991: The Patriot**
**Runners-up:** 1—Jerry Lawler, 2—Sid Justice, 3—Bill Dundee

**1990: Sting**
**Runners-up:** 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Jerry Lawler, 3—Nikolai Volkoff

**1989: Eric Embry**
**Runners-up:** 1—Nikita Koloff, 2—Billy Jack Haynes, 3—Ric Flair

**1988: Jerry Lawler**
**Runners-up:** 1—Kerry Von Erich, 2—Road Warrior Animal, 3—Jake Roberts

**1987: Nikita Koloff**
**Runners-up:** 1—Dynamite Kid, 2—Chris Adams, 3—Superstar Graham

**1986: Chris Adams**
**Runners-up:** 1—Magnum T.A., 2—Kerry Von Erich, 3—Steve Williams

**1985: Mike Von Erich**
**Runners-up:** 1—Paul Orndorff, 2—Hacksaw Duggan, 3—Kevin Von Erich

**1984: Sgt. Slaughter**
**Runners-up:** 1—Kerry Von Erich, 2—Kevin Von Erich, 3—Bob Backlund

**1983: Hulk Hogan**
**Runners-up:** 1—Roddy Piper, 2—Buzz Sawyer, 3—Buddy Rose

**1982: Roddy Piper**
**Runners-up:** 1—Jimmy Snuka, 2—Mil Mascaras, 3—Jimmy Valiant

**1981: Bob Backlund**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ted DiBiase, 2—Tito Santana, 3—Mr. Wrestling II

**1980: Junkyard Dog**
**Runners-up:** 1—Rick Steamboat, 2—Verne Gagne, 3—Mr. Florida

**1979: Chief Jay Strongbow**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ric Flair, 2—Mr. Wrestling II, 3—Dusty Rhodes

**1978: Blackjack Mulligan**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bruno Sammartino, 2—Mr. Wrestling II, 3—Jim Brunzell

**1977: Bob Backlund**
**Runners-up:** 1—Don Muraco, 2—Bruno Sammartino, 3—Terry Funk

**1976: Bruno Sammartino**
**Runners-up:** 1—Wahoo McDaniel, 2—Bob Roop, 3—Bob Armstrong

**1975: Mike McCord**

**1974: Dick Murdoch**

**1973: Johnny Valentine**

**1972: Lord Al Hays**

## ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

**1999: Shane McMahon**
**Runners-up:** 1—Evan Karagias, 2—Vince McMahon, 3—Lash LeRoux

**1998: Bill Goldberg**
**Runners-up:** 1—Sable, 2—Darren Drozdov, 3—Mark Henry

**1997: Prince Iaukea**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ernest Miller, 2—Chris Chetti, 3—Brakus

**1996: The Giant**
**Runners-up:** 1—Steve McMichael, 2—Rocky Maivia, 3—Joe Gomez

**1995: Alex Wright**
**Runners-up:** 1—Sgt. Craig Pittman, 2—Lawrence Taylor, 3—Madd Maxxine

**1994: 911**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bob Holly, 2—Abbudah Singh, 3—Mikey Whipwreck

**1993: Vampire Warrior**
**Runners-up:** 1—Robbie Eagle, 2—The Coles, 3—The Headhunters
**1992: Erik Watts**
**Runners-up:** 1—"Diamond" Dallas Page, 2—Vladimir Koloff, 3—Chaz
**1991: Johnny B. Badd**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Patriot, 2—Terri Power, 3—Lightning Kid
**1990: Steve Austin**
**Runners-up:** 1—El Gigante, 2—Brad Anderson, 3—Chris Chavis
**1989: Mike Enos & Wayne Bloom**
**Runners-up:** 1—Dustin Rhodes, 2—Scotty the Body, 3—Johnathan Holliday
**1988: Madusa Miceli**
**Runners-up:** 1—Chris Benoit, 2—Max Pain, 3—Scott Steiner
**1987: Owen Hart**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bubba Rogers, 2—Shane Douglas, 3—Doug Furnas
**1986: Lex Luger**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bam Bam Bigelow, 2—Sting, 3—Tom Magee
**1985: Nord the Barbarian**
**Runners-up:** 1—Kendall Windham, 2—Dan Spivey, 3—Sam Houston
**1984: Mike Von Erich**
**Runners-up:** 1—Nikita Koloff, 2—Krusher Khrushchev, 3—Kevin Kelly
**1983: Angelo Mosca Jr.**
**Runners-up:** 1—King Kong Bundy, 2—Scott Armstrong, 3—Arn Anderson
**1982: Brad Armstrong**
**Runners-up:** 1—Tiger Mask, 2—Mike Rotundo, 3—Kamala
**1981: David Sammartino**
**Runners-up:** 1—Brad Rheingans, 2—Curt Hennig, 3—Ron Richie
**1980: Terry Taylor**
**Runners-up:** 1—Barry Windham, 2—Rick McGraw, 3—Tom Prichard
**1979: Sweet Brown Sugar**
**Runners-up:** 1—Steve Travis, 2—Bryan St. John, 3—Eddie Gilbert
**1978: Tommy Rich**
**Runners-up:** 1—Jay Youngblood, 2—David Von Erich, 3—Tully Blanchard
**1977: Rick Steamboat**
**Runners-up:** 1—Jimmy Snuka, 2—John Studd, 3—Skip Young
**1976: Bob Backlund**
**Runners-up:** 1—Chavo Guerrero, 2—Steve Keirn, 3—Johnny Rivera
**1975: Ric Flair**
**1974: Larry Zbyszko**
**1973: Cowboy Bob Orton/Tony Garea (tie)**
**1972: Mike Graham**

## MANAGER OF THE YEAR

**1999: Debra**
**Runners-up:** 1—Jimmy Hart, 2—Bill Alfonso, 3—Paul Bearer
**1998: Paul Bearer**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bill Alfonso, 2—Tammy Lynn Sytch, 3—Paul Ellering
**1997: Bill Alfonso**
**Runners-up:** 1—Jacquelyn, 2—Paul Bearer, 3—Ted DiBiase
**1996: Sunny**
**Runners-up:** 1—Jimmy Hart, 2—Jim Cornette, 3—Bill Alfonso
**1995: Jim Cornette**
**Runners-up:** 1—Sherri Martel, 2—Col. Robert Parker, 3—Woman
**1994: Jimmy Hart**
**Runners-up:** 1—Ted DiBiase, 2—Col. Robert Parker, 3—Paul E. Dangerously
**1993: Jim Cornette**
**Runners-up:** 1—Harley Race, 2—Mr. Fuji, 3—Tammy Fytch
**1992: Paul E. Dangerously**
**Runners-up:** 1—Curt Hennig, 2—Harley Race, 3—Jim Cornette
**1991: Bobby Heenan**
**Runners-up:** 1—Harley Race, 2—Alexandra York, 3—Paul Bearer

Teddy Long

**1990: Teddy Long**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bobby Heenan, 2—Ole Anderson, 3—Jim Cornette
**1989: Bobby Heenan**
**Runners-up:** 1—Gary Hart, 2—Teddy Long, 3—Gen. Skandor Akbar
**1988: J.J. Dillon**
**Runners-up:** 1—Elizabeth, 2—Jim Cornette, 3—Paul E. Dangerously
**1987: Jimmy Hart**
**Runners-up:** 1—J.J. Dillon, 2—Jim Cornette, 3—Paul E. Dangerously
**1986: Capt. Lou Albano**
**Runners-up:** 1—Paul Ellering, 2—Elizabeth, 3—Jim Cornette
**1985: Jim Cornette**
**Runners-up:** 1—Capt. Lou Albano, 2—Paul Ellering, 3—Bobby Heenan
**1984: Paul Ellering**
**Runners-up:** 1—Jimmy Hart, 2—Jim Cornette, 3—James J. Dillon
**1983: James J. Dillon**
**Runners-up:** 1—Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, 2—Capt. Lou Albano, 3—Paul Ellering
**1982: James J. Dillon**
**Runners-up:** 1—Arnold Skaaland, 2—Sonny King, 3—Jimmy Hart
**1981: Capt. Lou Albano**
**Runners-up:** 1—Arnold Skaaland, 2—Sir Oliver Humperdink, 3—The Grand Wizard
**1980: Sir Oliver Humperdink**
**Runners-up:** 1—Arnold Skaaland, 2—Capt. Lou Albano, 3—The Great Mephisto
**1979: Arnold Skaaland**
**Runners-up:** 1—Capt. Lou Albano, 2—Buddy Rogers, 3—Sir Oliver Humperdink
**1978: Arnold Skaaland**
**Runners-up:** 1—The Grand Wizard, 2—Bobby Heenan, 3—Gary Hart
**1977: The Grand Wizard**
**Runners-up:** 1—Bobby Heenan, 2—Capt. Lou Albano, 3—Lord Al Hays
**1976: Bobby Heenan**
**Runners-up:** 1—Lou Albano, 2—Fred Blassie, 3—Gary Hart
**1975: George "Crybaby" Cannon**
**1974: Capt. Lou Albano**
**1973: The Grand Wizard**
**1972: Bobby Heenan**

## *PWI* EDITORS' AWARD

**1999: Owen Hart**
**1998: Bobo Brazil**
**1997: Arn Anderson**
**1996: Dan Hodge**
**1995: Rick Steamboat**
**1994: Capt. Lou Albano**
**1993: Andre The Giant**
**1992: Stanley Weston**
**1991: Fabulous Moolah**
**1990: Buddy Rogers**
**1989: Gordon Solie**
**1988: Bruiser Brody & Adrian Adonis**
**1987: Paul Boesch**
**1986: Verne Gagne**
**1985: Dan Shocket**
**1984: David Von Erich**
**1983: The Grand Wizard**
**1982: Lou Thesz**
**1981: Bruno Sammartino**

# PWI SUPERSTATS

# TITLE CHANGES: 2000

**The following is a cumulative listing of all major title changes to have taken place in 2000 up to press time. For a comprehensive up-to-date title listing, be sure to check out the "Roll Call Of Champions" in each issue of *Inside Wrestling***

Genichiro Tenryu

## ALL-JAPAN TRIPLE CROWN CHAMPIONSHIP[1]

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kenta Kobashi | Vader | Tokyo, Japan | February 27 |
| Genichiro Tenryu | Toshiaki Kawada | Tokyo, Japan[2] | October 28 |

[1]This championship consists of the All-Japan International, the All-Japan United National, and the Pacific Wrestling Federation heavyweight titles.
[2]This was a match for the vacant titles; previous champion Kenta Kobashi gave them up when he defected to NOAH.

## ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Vader & Steve Williams | Jun Akiyama & Kenta Kobashi | Kobe, Japan | February 20 |
| Toshiaki Kawada & Akira Taue | Takao Omori & Yoshihiro Takayama | Tokyo, Japan[1] | June 9 |

[1]This was a tournament final to fill a vacancy created when Vader & Williams were stripped due to injuries suffered by Vader on April 7. The title has remained vacant since Taue left All-Japan to compete in NOAH.

Steve Corino

## ECW WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tazz | Mike Awesome | Indianapolis, IN | April 13 |
| Tommy Dreamer | Tazz | Philadelphia, PA | April 22 |
| Justin Credible | Tommy Dreamer | Philadelphia, PA | April 22 |
| Jerry Lynn | Justin Credible | St. Paul, MN | October 1 |
| Steve Corino | Jerry Lynn | Villa Park, IL[1] | November 5 |

[1]Corino pinned Justin Credible at the end of a four-man "Double Jeopardy" match after both Lynn and The Sandman had been eliminated.

## ECW WORLD TAG TEAM TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Justin Credible & LanceStorm | Tommy Dreamer & Raven | Birmingham,AL | January 9 |
| Tommy Dreamer & Masato Tanaka | Justin Credible & Lance Storm | Cincinnati, OH | February 26 |
| Mike Awesome & Raven | Tommy Dreamer & Masato Tanaka | Philadelphia, PA | March 4 |

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Justin Credible & Lance Storm | Mike Awesome & Raven | Danbury, CT[1] | March 12 |
| Yoshihiro Tajiri & Mikey Whipwreck | — | New York, NY[2] | August 25 |
| Tony Mamaluke & Little Guido Maritato | Yoshihiro Tajiri & Mikey Whipwreck | New York, NY | August 26 |

[1]This was a three-way match also involving Tommy Dreamer & Masato Tanaka.
[2]This was a three-way tournament final also involving Tommy Dreamer & Jerry Lynn and Simon Diamond & Swinger. Credible & Storm vacated the title when Credible won the ECW World title.

## ECW TV TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Super Crazy | Rhino | Danbury, CT[1] | March 12 |
| Yoshihiro Tajiri | Super Crazy | Buffalo, NY | April 8 |
| Rhino | Yoshihiro Tajiri | Philadelphia, PA | April 22 |
| Kid Kash | Rhino | New York, NY | August 26 |
| Rhino | Kid Kash | Mississauga, Ontario | September 9 |

[1]This was the final of a tournament to fill the vacancy created when Rob Van Dam was stripped due to an ankle injury.

## IWGP HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kensuke Sasaki | Genichiro Tenryu | Tokyo, Japan[1] | January 4 |

[1]Sasaki gave up the title after losing a non-title match to Toshiaki Kawada on October 9.

## IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Satoshi Kojima & Hiroyoshi Tenzan | Yuji Nagata & Manabu Nakanishi | Sapporo, Japan | July 20 |

## IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tatsuhito Takaiwa | Jushin Liger | Sapporo, Japan | July 20 |
| Minoru Tanaka | Tatsuhito Takaiwa | Kobe, Japan | October 29 |

## NWA HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mike Rapada | Jerry Flynn | Tampa, FL[1] | September 19 |
| Sabu | Mike Rapada | Tampa, FL | November 14 |

[1]This was a tournament final. Previous champ Naoya Ogawa voluntarily gave up the title.

## WCW WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chris Benoit | Sid Vicious | Cincinnati, OH[1] | January 16 |
| Sid Vicious | Kevin Nash | Los Angeles, CA[2] | January 24 |
| Sid Vicious | Kevin Nash | Las Vegas, NV[3] | January 25 |
| Jeff Jarrett | Dallas Page | Chicago, IL[4] | April 16 |
| Dallas Page | Jeff Jarrett | Rochester, NY | April 24 |
| David Arquette | Dallas Page | Syracuse, NY[5] | April 25 |
| Jeff Jarrett | David Arquette | St. Louis, MO[6] | May 7 |
| Ric Flair | Jeff Jarrett | Biloxi, MS | May 15 |
| Jeff Jarrett | Ric Flair | Grand Rapids, MI[7] | May 22 |
| Kevin Nash | Jeff Jarrett | Saginaw, MI[8] | May 23 |
| Ric Flair | Kevin Nash | Salt Lake City, UT[9] | May 29 |
| Jeff Jarrett | Ric Flair | Salt Lake City, UT | May 29 |

Rhino

Kensuke Sasaki

Sabu

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Booker T | Jeff Jarrett | Fort Lauderdale, FL | July 9 |
| Kevin Nash | Booker T | Las Cruces, NM | August 28 |
| Booker T | Kevin Nash | Buffalo, NY | September 17 |
| Vince Russo | Booker T | Uniondale, NY | September 25 |
| Booker T | Jeff Jarrett | San Francisco, CA[10] | October 2 |
| Scott Steiner | Booker T | Milwaukee, WI | November 26 |

[1]This was a match for the vacant title. Bret Hart had to give it up due to a head injury.
[2]Chris Benoit's victory was overturned a night later because Sid's foot was under the ropes when Benoit applied the Crippler crossface. This match for the vacant title.
[3]This was yet another match for the vacant title, as Nash stripped Sid for failing to beat the proper Harris brother before beating Nash the previous night.
[4]This was the final match in a tournament for the vacant title. Eric Bischoff and Vince Russo stripped all WCW champions of their titles when they relaunched WCW on April 10.
[5]Arquette won the title by pinning Bischoff in a tag team match pitting him and DDP against Bischoff and Jarrett. The man scoring the winning pin got the title.
[6]This was a three-way cage match also involving Dallas Page.
[7]Vince Russo awarded the title to Jarrett because Flair was injured.
[8]This was a three-way match also involving Scott Steiner.
[9]Nash gave the title to Flair.
[10]This was a match for the vacant title. Russo gave it up earlier in the night.

Scott Steiner

Dallas Page & Kevin Nash

## WCW WORLD TAG TEAM TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| David Flair & Crowbar | Kevin Nash & Scott Steiner | Greenville, SC[1] | January 3 |
| Big Vito & Johnny the Bull | David Flair & Crowbar | Evansville, IN | January 18 |
| Don & Ron Harris | Big Vito & Johnny the Bull | Oberhausen, Germany | February 12 |
| Big Vito & Johnny the Bull | Don & Ron Harris | Leipzig, Germany | February 13 |
| Don & Ron Harris | Big Vito & Johnny the Bull | Miami, FL | March 19 |
| Buff Bagwell & Shane Douglas | Ric Flair & Lex Luger | Chicago, IL[2] | April 16 |
| Kronic | Buff Bagwell & Shane Douglas | Memphis, TN | May 2 |
| Chuck Palumbo & Shawn Stasiak | Kronic | Boise, ID | May 30 |
| Kronic | Chuck Palumbo & Shawn Stasiak | Fort Lauderdale, FL | July 9 |
| The Great Muta & Vampiro | Kronic | Vancouver, British Columbia | August 13 |
| Juventud Guerrera & Rey Misterio Jr. | The Great Muta & Vampiro | Kelowna, British Columbia | August 14 |
| Mark Jindrak & Sean O'Haire | — | Uniondale, NY[3] | September 25 |
| Cpl. Cajun & Lt. Loco | Mark Jindrak & Sean O'Haire | Sydney, Australia | October 9 |
| Mark Jindrak & Sean O'Haire | Cpl. Cajun & Lt. Loco | Sydney, Australia | October 9 |
| Disqo & Alex Wright | Mark Jindrak & Sean O'Haire | Obernhausen, Germany | November 16 |
| Chuck Palumbo & Shawn Stasiak | Elix Skipper & Alex Wright | Augusta, GA[4] | November 20 |
| Kevin Nash & Dallas Page | Chuck Palumbo & Shawn Stasiak | Milwaukee, WI | November 26 |

[1]This was a tournament final. Previous champs Scott Hall & Kevin Nash had been stripped earlier in the evening when Hall failed to show up at the arena on time.
[2]This was a tournament final. Eric Bischoff and Vince Russo stripped all WCW cham-

pions of their titles when they relaunched WCW on April 10.
[3]Jindrak & O'Haire won a battle royal for the title, which became vacant when Disqo lost to Ernest Miller a week earlier after saying Miller could strip Guerrera & Misterio if Miller pinned him.
[4]Skipper substituted for an injured Disqo.

## WCW U.S. HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jeff Jarrett | — | Columbus, OH[1] | January 17 |
| Scott Steiner | Sting | Chicago, IL[2] | April 16 |
| Lance Storm | Mike Awesome | Auburn Hills, MI[3] | July 18 |
| Terry Funk | Lance Storm | Amarillo, TX | September 22 |
| Lance Storm | Terry Funk | Lubbock, TX | September 23 |
| Gen. Rection | Lance Storm | Las Vegas, NV[4] | October 29 |
| Lance Storm | Gen. Rection | London, England | November 10 |
| Gen. Rection | Lance Storm | Milwaukee, WI | November 26 |

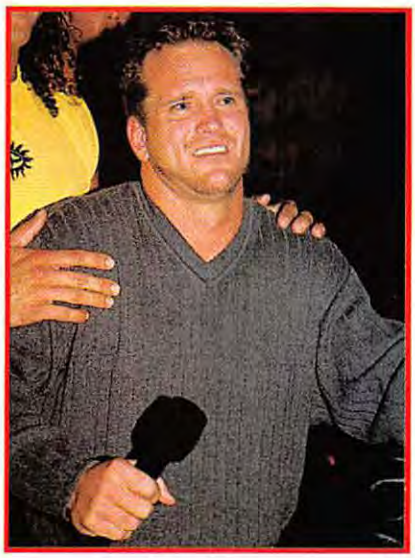
[1]Jarrett was awarded the title by new WCW Commissioner Kevin Nash just one day after he was stripped of it.
[2]This was the final match of a tournament. Eric Bischoff and Vince Russo stripped all WCW champions of their titles when they relaunched WCW on April 10.
[3]This was the final match of a tournament held to fill a vacancy created when WCW Commissioner Ernest Miller stripped Scott Steiner for using the Steiner recliner, a hold he had banned, on Mike Awesome on July 9.
[4]Rection beat Storm and Hacksaw Duggan in a handicap match.

Gen. Rection

## WCW CRUISERWEIGHT TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oklahoma | Madusa | Cincinnati, OH | January 16 |
| The Artist | Lash LeRoux | San Francisco, CA[1] | February 20 |
| Billy Kidman | The Artist | Baltimore, MD | March 30 |
| The Artist | Billy Kidman | Pittsburgh, PA | March 31 |
| Chris Candido | — | Chicago, IL[2] | April 16 |
| Crowbar & Daffney | Chris Candido | Biloxi, MS[3] | May 15 |
| Daffney | Crowbar | Grand Rapids, MI[4] | May 22 |
| Lt. Loco | Daffney | Knoxville, TN[5] | June 6 |
| Lance Storm | Lt. Loco | Cincinnati, OH | July 31 |
| Elix Skipper | Lance Storm | Kelowna, British Columbia[6] | August 14 |
| Mike Sanders | Elix Skipper | San Francisco, CA | October 2 |

[1]This was the final match of a tournament held to fill a vacancy created when Oklahoma gave up the title.
[2]This was a six-man match for the vacant title. Eric Bischoff and Vince Russo stripped all WCW champions of their titles when they relaunched WCW on April 10.
[3]Crowbar & Daffney were declared co-champions after Daffney pinned Tammy Sytch in a mixed tag match also involving Candido in which the title was on the line.
[4]Daffney won this match to become the undisputed cruiserweight champion.
[5]This was a three-way match also involving Disco Inferno.
[6]Storm awarded the title to Skipper.


Mike Sanders

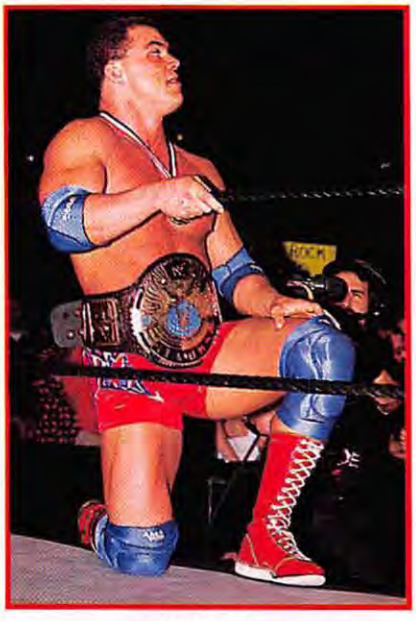
## WCW HARDCORE TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Brian Knobs | Norman Smiley | Erie, PA | January 11 |
| Bam Bam Bigelow | Brian Knobs | Tulsa, OK | February 7 |
| Brian Knobs | Bam Bam Bigelow | San Francisco, CA | February 20 |
| Three Count | Brian Knobs | Minneapolis, MN | February 28 |
| Brian Knobs | Three Count | Miami, FL | March 19 |
| Terry Funk | Norman Smiley | Chicago, IL[1] | April 16 |
| Shane Douglas | Terry Funk | Grand Rapids, MI | May 22 |
| Terry Funk | Shane Douglas | Saginaw, MI[2] | May 23 |

Crowbar

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Eric Bischoff | Terry Funk | Atlanta, GA | June 5 |
| Big Vito & Johnny the Bull | Eric Bischoff | Knoxville, TN[3] | June 6 |
| Big Vito | Johnny the Bull | Billings, MT[4] | June 19 |
| Lance Storm | Big Vito | Cleveland, OH | July 24 |
| Carl Oulette | Lance Storm | Kelowna, British Columbia[5] | August 14 |
| Norman Smiley | Carl Oulette | Kelowna, British Columbia | August 14 |
| Reno | Sgt. A-Wall | San Francisco, CA[6] | October 2 |
| Crowbar | Reno | Chicago, IL | November 6 |

[1]This was a match for the vacant title. Eric Bischoff and Vince Russo stripped all WCW champions of their titles when they relaunched WCW on April 10.
[2]This was a handicap match in which Norman Smiley was Funk's partner.
[3]Bischoff awarded the title to Vito & Johnny.
[4]This was a match to determine the undisputed champion.
[5]Storm awarded the title to Oulette.
[6]This was a match for the vacant title. Smiley was stripped for failing to defend it.



Kurt Angle

## WWF WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Triple-H | The Big Show | Miami, FL | January 3 |
| The Rock | Triple-H | Washington, DC | April 30 |
| Triple-H | The Rock | Louisville, KY | May 21 |
| The Rock | Triple-H | Boston, MA[1] | June 25 |
| Kurt Angle | The Rock | Albany, NY | October 22 |

[1]Rock won the belt by pinning Vince McMahon in a six-man tag team match.

## WWF WORLD TAG TEAM TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| The Dudley Boyz | Billy Gunn & Road Dogg | Hartford, CT | February 27 |
| Christian & Edge | The Dudley Boyz | Anaheim, CA[1] | April 2 |
| Too Cool | Christian & Edge | Vancouver, British Columbia | May 29 |
| Christian & Edge | Too Cool | Boston, MA[2] | June 25 |
| The Hardy Boyz | Christian & Edge | Philadelphia, PA | September 24 |
| Christian & Edge | The Hardy Boyz | Albany, NY[3] | October 22 |
| The Hardy Boyz | Christian & Edge | Hartford, CT[4] | October 23 |
| Bull Buchanan & The Goodfather | The Hardy Boyz | Houston, TX | November 6 |

[1]This was a three-way ladder match also involving The Hardy Boyz.
[2]This was a four-corners match also involving The Hardy Boyz and Test & Albert.
[3]Christian & Edge won this match as the masked Conquistadors.
[4]Edge defended the title in a handicap match.

Billy Gunn

## WWF INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chris Jericho | — | New York, NY[1] | January 23 |
| Kurt Angle | Chris Jericho | Hartford, CT | February 27 |
| Chris Benoit | Kurt Angle | Anaheim, CA[2] | April 2 |
| Chris Jericho | Chris Benoit | Richmond, VA | May 2 |
| Chris Benoit | Chris Jericho | Uniondale, NY | May 8 |
| Rikishi | Chris Benoit | Memphis, TN | June 20 |
| Val Venis | Rikishi | Fort Lauderdale, FL | July 4 |
| Chyna | Val Venis | Raleigh, NC[3] | August 27 |
| Eddie Guerrero | Chyna | Knoxville, TN[4] | September 3 |
| Billy Gunn | Eddie Guerrero | Sunrise, FL | November 21 |

[1]This was a three-way match involving co-Intercontinental champs Jericho and Chyna as

well as Hardcore Holly. As a result of his win, Jericho became the undisputed champion.
[2]Benoit won the belt in a three-way match by pinning Chris Jericho.
[3]Chyna won the belt by pinning Trish Stratus in a tag team match pitting Stratus & Venis against Chyna & Eddie Guerrero.
[4]This was a three-way match also involving Kurt Angle.

Steve Blackman

## WWF HARDCORE TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Test | Big Bossman | New Haven, CT | January 17 |
| Crash Holly | Test | Nashville, TN | February 22 |
| Pete Gas | Crash Holly | Newark, NJ | March 13 |
| Crash Holly | Pete Gas | Newark, NJ | March 13 |
| Hardcore Holly | Crash Holly | Anaheim, CA[1] | April 2 |
| Crash Holly | Hardcore Holly | Los Angeles, CA | April 3 |
| Perry Saturn | Crash Holly | Tampa, FL | April 11 |
| Tazz | Perry Saturn | Tampa, FL | April 11 |
| Crash Holly | Tazz | Tampa, FL | April 11 |
| Matt Hardy | Crash Holly | Raleigh, NC | April 24 |
| Crash Holly | Matt Hardy | Charlotte, NC | April 25 |
| Davey Boy Smith | Crash Holly | London, England | May 6 |
| Crash Holly | Davey Boy Smith | New Haven, CT | May 9 |
| Bobcat | Crash Holly | Cleveland, OH | May 15 |
| Crash Holly | Bobcat | Cleveland, OH | May 15 |
| Gerald Brisco | Crash Holly | Detroit, MI | June 6 |
| Crash Holly | Gerald Brisco | St. Louis, MO | June 13 |
| Gerald Brisco | Crash Holly | Nashville, TN | June 19 |
| Pat Patterson | Gerald Brisco | Nashville, TN | June 19 |
| Crash Holly | Pat Patterson | Boston, MA | June 25 |
| Steve Blackman | Crash Holly | Hartford, CT | June 27 |
| Crash Holly | Steve Blackman | Tampa, FL | July 2 |
| Steve Blackman | Crash Holly | Tampa, FL | July 2 |
| Shane McMahon | Steve Blackman | Lafayette, LA | August 22 |
| Steve Blackman | Shane McMahon | Raleigh, NC | August 27 |
| Crash Holly | Steve Blackman | Philadelphia, PA | September 24 |
| Perry Saturn | Crash Holly | Philadelphia, PA | September 24 |
| Steve Blackman | Perry Saturn | Philadelphia, PA | September 24 |

[1]Hardcore Holly was the champion at the end of a 10-man, 15-minute hardcore battle royal in which the title changed hands 10 times.

William Regal

## WWF EUROPEAN TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kurt Angle | Val Venis | Austin, TX | February 8 |
| Chris Jericho | Kurt Angle | Anaheim, CA[1] | April 2 |
| Eddie Guerrero | Chris Jericho | Los Angeles, CA | April 3 |
| Perry Saturn | Eddie Guerrero | Dallas, TX | July 23 |
| Al Snow | Perry Saturn | Fayetteville, NC | August 29 |
| William Regal | Al Snow | Detroit, MI | October 16 |

[1]This was a three-way match in which Jericho pinned Chris Benoit to win the title.

Ivory

## WWF WOMEN'S TITLE

| WON BY | WON FROM | LOCATION | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Harvey Wippleman | The Kat | Pittsburgh, PA[1] | February 1 |
| Jacquelyn | Harvey Wippleman | Detroit, MI | February 2 |
| Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley | Jacquelyn | San Antonio, TX | March 28 |
| Lita | Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley | Lafayette, LA | August 22 |
| Ivory | Lita | Rochester, NY | October 31 |

[1]This was a lumberjill snow bunny match in which Wippleman dressed as a woman.

PWI ACHIEVEMENT 2000

# MEMORIES OF 2000

# THE EDITORS' PICKS

**Finally, we close out this year-end issue of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED by asking our editors pick the most memorable and enduring moment of the past year. In doing so, we close the book on 2000 and look forward to the next 12 months. In 2001, we wish you and yours another year filled with health, happiness, and the best that professional wrestling has to offer**

**Stu Saks (Publisher):** "On 9 p.m. Eastern on September 25, while most people I know were settling in for the debut of *Raw* on TNN, I did the unthinkable. I forsook 'The King' and J.R. and the returning 'Stone-Cold' and continued watching *Nitro.* In my mind, how WCW would respond to the WWF on this night at this very moment would tell me if there was indeed hope that there could be a continuation of the Big War into the 21st century. Well, WCW put forth its best creative efforts and came up with a bikini contest to be judged by a bunch of weirdoes from the Howard Stern radio show. After 10 minutes, I turned off my set altogether. I was too depressed to watch anything."

**Dave Lenker (Editor-in-Chief):** "It's a week before WrestleMania and the McMahon family feud has never been hotter. Vince, Shane, Steph, and Linda are all preparing to second a different wrestler in the four-way main event for the World title. They're all shouting at each other. Vince is even threatening to spank Steph. And in the middle of all this name-calling, this intense drama, Triple-H grabs a microphone and blurts out (somehow with a straight face) what I consider the quote of the year: 'What the hell kind of family did I marry into?' Right there is one subtle reason WWF shows are so entertaining. Just when you feel like things are getting a bit too tense, someone lightens the mood to let you know that this is supposed to be *fun to watch,* people. I'm not sure what happened in the next few minutes. I was too busy trying to compose myself."

**Brandi Mankiewicz (Managing Editor):** "This year had to be the most chaotic that I have ever witnessed, and I'm thankful that most of it is a blur. There is one moment that still haunts me with its clarity, and that is when I was told that Gordon Solie had died. I was in the office after hours, working on the *'PWI* 500.' My computer had crashed and I was frantically trying to rebuild my databases and pages that I had lost. I was at wits' end when the phone rang. It was my best friend, and he told me the grim news. I went numb. The wrestling world lost its greatest pitchman and I lost my only hero. It's been months since Gordon's passing, and I can still see his mannerisms and style manifesting themselves in others. That is Gordon's greatest legacy; I'm glad that he will live on forever through them."

**Will Welsh (Associate Editor):** "While ECW struggled to remain solvent and WCW struggled to make *Nitro* even remotely entertaining, the WWF continued to bulldoze its way into America's mainstream. Perhaps the most outlandish example of that was The Rock's appearance at the Republican National Convention. Given the fact that many political pundits took Rock's appearance at the RNC as a sign of oncoming political Armageddon, the events that transpired throughout the month of November in Florida shouldn't have seemed so strange. Besides, what's more bizarre than The Rock asking the staid members of the Grand Old Party, 'Do you smell what The Rock is cookin'?' Not much."

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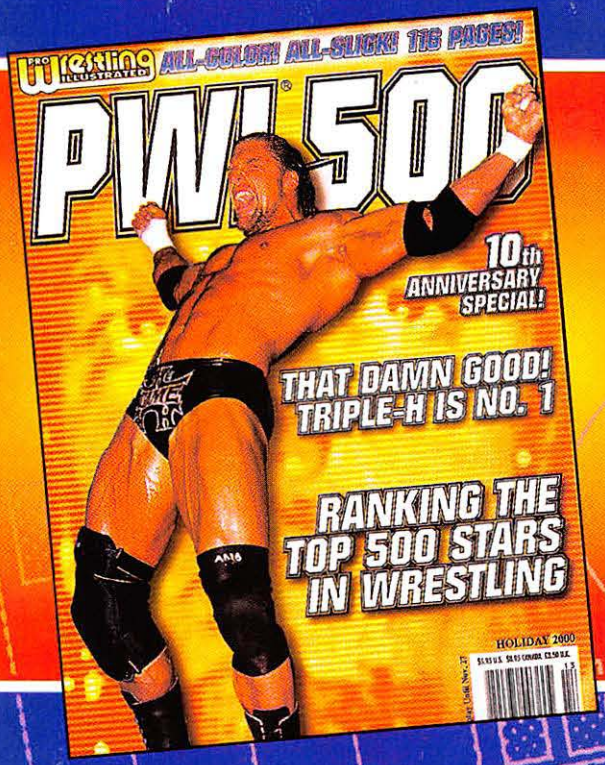


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